

THE TIMES

Saturday

In the past nine months sales of personal computers have trebled. Most of them have been bought by men, who comprise 88 per cent of all users. In *Saturday* tomorrow, Lesley Wells casts a critical feminine eye on the male-dominated boom.

Also in the eight-page arts and leisure section: two views of travelling in the Indian sub-continent, from Kashmir to Rajasthan; a guide to the franchise business; and news and views of the coming week's events in the arts.

5 children die in house fire

Five children aged between two and nine died in a fire at their home in Frogmore Avenue, Hayes, west London yesterday. The police said that their mother had gone upstairs to get something and, when she came down, saw a sheet of flame coming from one of the rooms.

Bank refuses to cut rates

The Bank of England rejected pressures to cut its money market dealing rates, but a half-point cut in bank base rates is thought to be imminent. The expectation pushed sterling down.

Rapid response

Armed police reacted quickly to a Bristol bank raid because they were already deployed elsewhere. A survey shows that police are not necessarily being issued with guns more often.

Kissinger link

Dr Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, admitted that he had met a PLO representative privately in Morocco, but he denied that the meeting had any political significance.

Marathon truce

Wheelchair sportsmen have agreed to start half an hour behind the 19,000 runners in the London Marathon on April 10. The GLC, however, wants all contestants together next year.

Siege ends

A siege in Leeds in which a boy aged 12 had been held hostage ended when a man gave himself up to the police. No one was hurt and no shots were fired.

Farm price talks

American and EEC officials are trying in Washington to resolve their agricultural trade dispute before next month's meeting of Western heads of states in Virginia.

Feudal schools

Teachers at some small private schools are working under feudal conditions because of fear of unemployment, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association reported to its annual conference yesterday.

Oil slick talks

A ministerial conference called to discuss the huge oil slick in the Gulf began last night after being marred by political wrangling between Iraq and Iran. Slick hits Bahrain, page 6.

Nicaragua doubt

State Department officials are said to be questioning the legacy of American involvement in covert military operations against Nicaragua. Page 6.

Faldo's 70

Nick Faldo, the first of four British golfers to tie off in the US Masters tournament in Augusta, Georgia, was among the early leaders with a two under par first round score of 70.

Leading page 11: Letters: On breakfast TV, from Mr A. Singer, and Mr R. Wordley; nuclear arms, from Lord Gladwyn; sulfinthins, from Mr D. McNaughtan, and Mr C. Hurst.

Leading articles: General Ustinov on war, Northern Ireland Features, pages 8-10. Stopping the spy sickness: David Watt on the case for the Bomb; Mr Tebbitt puts the brake on union reform, *Spectrum*; How the Hollywood Oscars are won, Miles Kingston, Friday Page; Life with a revolutionary Redgrave, Medical Briefing, *Obituary*, page 12.

Sir George White, Sir James Thomson, Mr Jack Black.

Home News 2-4, Motorists 21, Overseas 4-7, Property 29, Arts 12-16, Science 17, Business 14-17, Sport reports 19, Sport 18-20, TV & Radio 18-20, Cinema 21, Theatres etc 23, Features 8-10, Weather 24, Letters 11, With 12.

US airline's £99 fare threatens new Atlantic war

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Talks open in London today on a new £99 Atlantic air fare which threatens, over the next two years, to overshadow the old Laker price war. The £99 unrestricted fare compares with a present £175 standby and £218 economy one-way. Mr Harold Paret, head of operations at the US's People Express airline, which proposes the fare for its new jumbo service between Gatwick and New York, Newark next month, is to meet top officials at the Civil Aviation Authority for British approval of the service in time for a late May start.

People Express is a "worker cooperative" airline that has been operating with huge success at massively reduced fares on US domestic routes since its formation three years ago. Its prospective entry on to the Atlantic route has caused consternation among existing lines on the New York run: British Airways, (BA), Pan American and Trans World Airlines.

But the UK Government, while fearful of the effect on BA and the fragile profitability of the North Atlantic run generally, will be hard put to oppose the application because it seems to be genuinely cost based.

BA refused to be drawn on the People Express proposal last night, saying only: "Our attitude is that the regulators must be satisfied, as with any other service, that it covers the cost of providing the seat and shows a reasonable return on the investment."

PanAm was equally guarded, adding: "Because they will be operating from secondary airports we do not think the service will be particularly competitive with our own. We offer a superior product with a high standard of service and

connections and do not think we will be affected very much."

But TWA threatened yesterday to respond with a £270 Apex (21 day advance booking) return for Gatwick to New York this summer.

It also announced the first yet day return London to New York at £499, compared with a standard £876 business class return. Leaving Heathrow at 9.40am the businessman would

reach New York at 12.15 and have up to nine hours there, arriving back at Heathrow at 8am the next day.

People Express claims to have about half the operating costs of standard airlines such as BA as a result of a new style of worker participation and employee share ownership born of America's tough deregulation policies.

For example, Mr Paret, spent the Easter weekend issuing boarding passes and dealing with catering and baggage handling, and expects to supplement his £6,000 dollars a year basic salary at

least 50 per cent by profits on his 60,000 airline shares.

At 34, Mr Paret is one of the older members of People Express, which uses college students extensively, and one of only nine top executives.

The airline's pilots, qualified and paid like those of any other airline, differ in being called flight managers. They spend three weeks of each month flying and the fourth week on ground administration duties unlike most pilots who go sailing or fishing.

Stewards and stewardesses likewise turn their hand to other work. All staff are company shareholders.

"We do not have any overheads whatever," Mr Paret says. "All the jobs for which other airlines have dedicated staff, administration, scheduling, dispatch, marketing, public relations, catering, are done by people who also fly."

Most airlines have overheads bigger than operating costs, Mr Paret claims. But People Express has lower operating costs due to intensive use of cheaply bought aircraft, its jumbo for the Atlantic service is leased from the collapsed Braniff for 50,000 dollars a month compared with a going rate of 300,000 dollars, and negligible overheads.

On the Atlantic route, its operating costs will be about five cents a passenger mile compared with 9-10 cents for other operators, Mr Paret claims, justifying its low fares and making it difficult for the United Kingdom Government to disallow them.

People Express can be seen as the spearhead of a new American attack on Atlantic air fares which have risen about 30 per cent since Laker folded.



In the swim: The Prince of Wales emerging from the Australian surf after a morning dip near Perth yesterday. Gallant Prince, page 7.

China cuts cultural ties with America

From David Bonavia Peking

China yesterday cancelled all sports and cultural exchanges for the rest of this year with the United States in retaliation for the Reagan Administration's decision to grant political asylum to Nils Hu Na, a Chinese tennis player. She defected while playing in the United States last year.

Peking's decision to suspend or cancel pending events in the Sino-American cultural exchange programme will not affect however, the hundreds of students and post-graduates studying in either country, a US Embassy official said here yesterday.

Among American-sponsored events in China which have been cancelled are a film festival and an art exhibition. Sporting engagements will also suffer, insofar as they are arranged on a government-to-government basis. Private or informal exchanges of visits are expected to continue.

China's friendliness towards the United States has cooled off considerably in the past two or three years because of Washington's continuing sales of arms to Kuomintang regime on Taiwan, restrictions on sales of American high-technology products, and on exports of Chinese textiles to the United States.

The cuts in exchanges seem designed to attract publicity while having little real effect on China's highest priorities in relations with the United States: the transfer of technology and the purchase of grain.

A large congressional delegation has recently been visiting China and will doubtless bring home fresh views on the Chinese Government's objections to certain US policies.

Meanwhile, Moscow is expected to try to improve bilateral relations with China, which is rattled by the proposed transfer of Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles from the European theatre to Central Asia.

WASHINGTON: White House officials last night expressed the hope that the dispute with China over Miss Hu would not seriously disturb relations between the two countries, Reuters reports.

Directors expect October election

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A general election in October is regarded by many leading businessmen as the most likely choice of the Prime Minister. They expect further labour law reforms to figure prominently in the Conservative manifesto. Presenting its response to Mr Norman Tebbit's Green Paper *Democracy in Trade Unions*, the Institute of Directors yesterday urged the Employment Secretary to go beyond his original intentions and curb the threat of strikes in essential public services.

But from its own internal canvass of business opinion, the institute believes that most of the options in the Green Paper will be drawn into the Conservatives' effort to win re-election rather than be implemented by the present Government.

The most strongly favoured date for Britain to go to the polls is still October, which 50 per cent of institute members regard as the most likely runner. Another 30 per cent believe that Mrs Thatcher will go to the country in June, while only 20

per cent think she will delay the election until early next year.

This picture of business opinion emerged as the IOD appealed to Mr Tebbit to think again about his plans for a third stage of trade union legislation. "The Government should take action to deal with trade unions operating in monopolistic public sector organizations and in particular the essential services," the institute said. "That is a greater priority than reforms in the area of trade union democracy."

In their submission, *Democracy and Competitiveness*, the directors urge decentralizing of bargaining structures in essential services, particularly gas, water and electricity; the introduction of compulsory arbitration as a final stage in disputes procedures; legislation to make trade union immunities conditional on the observance of such procedures; re-negotiation of the "limited protection" against strikes in essential services that existed in law before 1971.

Continued on back page, col 5

Pym seeks Saudi aid in peace deal

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, will urge Saudi Arabia to help revive President Reagan's faltering Middle East peace plan during his visit to the Gulf which starts today.

That and the Iran-Iraq war seem likely to be the focal points of Mr Pym's four-day tour, which was postponed last January because of the dispute over the Arab League's delegation to London.

Britain believes there is still life left in the Reagan proposals but that the Arabs need to take the initiative in using them as a basis for talks on the Palestinian issue.

King Husam of Jordan has made it clear that he is not prepared to emulate the late President Sadat of Egypt by negotiating with the Israelis in the absence of Arab support. The British view is that such support could come most effectively from Riyadh, where the Saudis have always seen the Reagan plan as providing at least an opportunity for moving forward on the divisive question of Palestine.

The need for some support has become crucial after the disappointing results of talks between King Husam and Mr Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The timing of Mr Pym's visit is also significant in view of a projected trip to the Middle East later this month by Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State. Mr Pym is being seen as a close ally and confidant of Washington who might help to prepare the way for Mr Shultz.

But the British Foreign Secretary is unlikely to offer any initiative of his own.

Keren to return as deal is struck

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

The Falklands troopship, HMS Keren, which was the subject of a threatened shipping strike, will return to Wallend on Tyneside today, and is expected to be ready to sail to the South Atlantic by the end of next week.

The converted cross-Channel ferry was at the centre of a dispute when the Royal Navy put a crew on board and sailed her into the North Sea last Thursday night.

An agreement reached on Wednesday between the National Union of Seamen and Blue Star line, which will manage her for the Ministry of Defence, means she will leave the Royal Navy and return to the merchant fleet on her return to Tyneside.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that concessions to the union agreed in negotiations at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service offices would add about £120,000 a year to the ship's operating costs. They said that had the union's claims been met in full, the additional costs would have been £1.4m. Operating costs, excluding some major items such as fuel and food, are now put at about £1.6m a year.

The union had been claiming that the ship should continue to operate under the same terms and conditions as when she was a cross-Channel ferry operated by British Rail's Sealink. Under those conditions the crew would have been entitled to one-and-a-half days off for every day worked, or 547 days leave for a full year worked.

Under the agreement, they will have 120 days off a year, compared with the 108 days which Blue Star had envisaged. To keep the ship operational, one-and-a-half crews will be needed, against three full crews under the union's proposals.

It has also been agreed that the number of seamen forming a crew should be increased from the planned 54 to 58 seamen, plus 21 officers and two medical staff.

While working in the South Atlantic the seamen will receive about £13 a week basic pay, including consolidated overtime, plus a Falklands bonus of £42 a week as long as the Falklands remain on a war footing. They will also receive £25 a week for accepting accommodation below the waterline.

It was accepted in Whitehall yesterday that because the Keren is a converted cross-Channel ferry and not originally designed for long distance routes, the concessions over days off, (rate of crew) and the £28 allowance were justified.

The ship will be used to carry servicemen between Ascension Island and the Falklands on their way to and from the United Kingdom.

Continued on back page, col 3

France cuts Pretoria sports links

From Diana Geddes Paris

The sharp increase in racism in France is one of the main reasons for the French Government's decision announced yesterday, to request all sporting bodies to end links with South Africa. Professional sportsmen will still be permitted to compete there as individuals.

An immediate casualty is likely to be the national rugby team's tour of South Africa this summer. In an angry reaction, M Albert Ferrasse, president of the French Rugby Federation, said it was a political decision and had nothing to do with sport.

His national committee would be meeting over the next few days to decide what to do. Giving reasons for the request, Mme Edwige Avice, Sports Minister said the Government was against racial discrimination in all its forms. The decision had been taken against a background of a rise in racism in France.

Exploitation of racist feelings by opposition candidates was very much to the fore during the run-up to the municipal elections last month, particularly in areas of concentration of immigrant workers such as in and around Marseilles, Paris, and Lyons.

England's dilemma, page 20

BL strikers seek new union lead

By Clifford Webb

The two main unions involved in the strike that has paralysed BL's Cowley assembly plant are under pressure from local union officers and shop stewards to declare the dispute over the company's plan to end the "washing-up time" at the end of each shift official before the loss of pay forces the 5,000 strikers to give in.

Yesterday the striking workers went to the plant to collect back pay owing of £43 less deductions, instead of their normal wage of £125. If the strike receives official backing, both the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will pay a minimum of £12 a week strike pay.

The normal obstacle to union backing is if the strikers have walked out before exhausting the official disputes procedure. That does not apply in this case.

The full procedure was followed to the letter during three months of protracted negotiations.

In an attempt to prevent union backing turning the dispute into a long drawn out confrontation, senior management are understood to have approached union leaders yesterday.

Reliable sources close to the management suggested that an

attempt was being made to call a meeting of all the union leaders who signed the "blue newspaper", the 92-page document setting out the new working procedures.

If that approach fails the company is expected to follow past practice and threaten to dismiss workers who do not meet its deadline for returning. Shopfloor leaders have anticipated that by telling workers to report as ordered, they would then consider disruptive tactics by small groups.

BL last night laid off 300 more workers because of the continuing effects of the 11-day-old strike (the Press Association reports).

That brings the total affected by the dispute to 8,550; 5,000 are on strike at Cowley and 3,550 are laid off elsewhere. The 300 made idle yesterday are the latest layoffs at Longbridge, Birmingham.

The workforce at Ford's Halewood plant on Merseyside yesterday voted to return to work after a month-long strike in support of a dismissed colleague, Mr Paul Kelly, for alleged vandalism.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) is expected to set up a three-man inquiry to consider Mr Kelly's case next week.

Lawnmower rivals sharpen their blades

By Rupert Morris

The green and pleasant lawns of Britain may become the battleground this summer for a furious confrontation between the two giants of the lawnmowing industry.

Qualcast, for decades the gardener's friend with traditional machines varying from the suburban push-along to the country gentleman's ride-on mower, have in recent years found their market dominance threatened by the new-fangled rotary-bladed hover mowers made by Flymo.

Flymo now claims to have knocked Qualcast off its grassy peak as Britain's biggest seller of lawnmowers. Qualcast does not merely dispute this assertion; it insists that independent research shows it to be selling twice as many as Flymo.

Whatever the true figures, Qualcast was clearly sufficiently rattled in 1980 to enlist the help of that mellowest of English summer voices, John Arlott, the cricket commentator, to assure television viewers that their machines were "a lot less boover than a hover".

Qualcast's latest advertisements, however, purport to show that the rival machines are not only bothersome, but inefficient. That has proved too much for the Flymo people, who have gone to the Independent Television Companies Association and demanded that the advertisement be taken off the air.

Mr David Bowles, sales and marketing director of Flymo, said proudly yesterday: "This latest Qualcast advertisement is clearly a panic measure which reflects the company's desperation at seeing their market share steadily eroding."

For 1983 Flymo had launched seven new models, one of which was a totally revolutionary grass-collecting air-cushion mower, he said.

Mr Bowles also said the Flymo system described in the advertisement as "the new kind of hover, one with a grass collector" had been on the market for four years. Even that model performed far better than the advertisement depicted, he said.

But Qualcast was unrepentant yesterday, and confident that it would be able to persuade the ITC to reject complaints of misrepresentation.

Mr Peter Mostyn, Qualcast's marketing director, said: "Our commercial was based on careful substantiation to ITC, whose members tested the machines themselves. We've been queried before, and we've been able to refute complaints."

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The University of Buckingham

Deal means Radio Times back

By a Staff Reporter

The *Radio Times*, after losing more than nine million copies because of an industrial dispute, will be available again in a national edition for the week beginning April 16.

Resumption of work at the East Kilbride plant of the British Printing and Communications Corporation (BPCC) means the magazine, which has not appeared for the past fortnight, will again be available in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the north of England.

A peace formula between the BPCC and the printing union Sogat '82 was reached on Tuesday. But the *Radio Times* will not be available in other areas until after a meeting of BPCC workers at Park Royal, in London, on Monday.

The meeting will be addressed by Mr William Keys, joint general secretary of Sogat '82.

BPCC workers at Paulton, near Bristol, where *Radio Times* colour pages are printed, also returned to work yesterday.

Head cleared of assault

A headmaster accused of assaulting nine boys pupils burst into tears at Hamilton Sheriff Court yesterday when he was cleared of all the charges. Mr William Brownlee, aged 52, the head at Benhar Primary School in Haverhill, Strathclyde, had been accused of hitting, punching and slapping them.

Sheriff Iain MacMillan said: "I am not satisfied these assaults took place. Some of the schoolboys' evidence was appalling and just a scheme to get the headmaster kicked out of the school."

Eight remanded on VAT charges

Eight men charged with value-added tax fraud appeared at Harrow Court, in north London, yesterday and were remanded in custody until April 15.

Seven of them were charged with dealing with gold chargeable with VAT, which had not been paid, with intent to defraud the Crown. Miss Yvonne Store, a Customs and Excise officer, objected to bail. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

\$1m contract for battlefield 'spy'

The Ministry of Defence has awarded a £1m engineering study contract for the Army's new Phoenix robot aircraft, designed to spy out enemy positions on the battlefield, to Marconi Avionics of Rochester, Kent, and Flight Refuelling, of Wimbome, Dorset.

Remotely-piloted vehicles were used to great effect during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, obtaining information on Palestinian and Syrian positions.

Report on police chief's crash

A Bedfordshire police report on a road accident in which Mr Ian Kane, the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, was involved is to be studied by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Mr Kane was driving from a council meeting in Huntingdon to his home three weeks ago when his car crashed into a ditch. He was unhurt but the car was extensively damaged.

Issue of guns to police 'not matching rise in armed crime'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Greater Manchester is unique in its policy of putting armed police to patrol streets in case of crime, a survey of city forces revealed yesterday.

Not even the Metropolitan Police does that, according to its press office yesterday, though it is known that some London officers are armed to protect diplomats, which is in a different category. The Metropolitan Police refuse to discuss the issuing of guns for national security purposes.

West Yorkshire says it holds guns in quick response cars on standby. Other guns are locked away.

In spite of the exchange of shots in which an unarmed officer was injured on Wednesday, Avon and Somerset Police said yesterday that it had no plans to change its policy of control over the issuing of guns to officers.

As with other forces asked, permission for weapons to be drawn rests with the chief constable, his deputy or assistant chief constables. Only in emergency may a chief superintendent authorize their issue.

The rise in armed crime nationally has not led to a uniform increase in the issuing of firearms to police. In several forces the number of times firearms have been issued has fallen, most dramatically in the West Midlands, from 284 in 1978 to 116 in 1982, which was part of a steadily downwards trend.

In Thames Valley the total fell from 46 in 1980 to 28 in 1982, the number of offences recorded in which firearms were involved also fell, from 304 to 297.

In Merseyside reports of crimes involving firearms rose from 251 in 1980 (including 25

robberies) to 356 (50 robberies) in 1982. That compares with fairly constant figures for the issuing of arms to the police either to deal with suspected armed criminal activity or as a precaution: 176 occasions in 1980; 186 in 1981 and 182 in 1982.

Even in the Metropolitan Police area the latest figures for the issuing of guns to deal with persons known or believed to be armed is lower than it was 6,647 in 1979, compared with 6,035 last year.

In Strathclyde there was a rise from 338 occasions in 1981 on which guns were issued to police to 446 last year.

Police there were confronted six times in 1981 by armed people and four times in 1982, and officers used guns on other occasions only for the necessary destruction of animals.

Two forces approached, Northumbria and South Yorkshire, said it was not their policy to provide figures showing how often guns are issued.

When Mr James Anderton, Greater Manchester's Chief Constable, faces his police committee today to answer questions about his new policy, he will be able to provide some reassurance about the number of occasions on which his officers are armed.

That fell slightly between 1979 and last year, though the total is swollen each year by the need to police Manchester's international airport.

In 1979 guns were issued on 1,470 occasions and in 1982 on 1,445.

Mr Anderton confirmed to a meeting of the Association of Chief Police Officers yesterday that his new patrols were "in relation to a specific operational commitment".

An association statement from its president, Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, said: "Chief constables wish to emphasize that there has been no change in the policy that they have always followed in relation to the issue of firearms to police officers. There is certainly no intention to allow the issue and use of firearms by police indiscriminately."

That attitude was reflected by the Police Federation yesterday when Mr Leslie Curtis, the chairman, told members in Nottingham: "We are totally opposed to the routine arming of the police."

"We recognize, however, that in an age when the amount of armed crime is increasing, the police must have ready access to firearms as and when there is good reason to believe that they will encounter armed criminals."

The political controversy over Mr Anderton's policy continued as Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch and Lynton, called on Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to take action to reverse the increasing use of firearms by criminals.

● A Labour councillor claimed yesterday that gun law seemed to be ruling in Bristol's Streets (Our Bristol Correspondent writes).

Mr Terence Walker, chairman of Avon County Council's public protection committee, said: "Police should not be allowed to get into the situation where there is an exchange of gunfire."

Mrs Pam Taitlow, the prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for Bristol, west, called for an inquiry

MP asks Whitelaw to clarify police gun law

By John Winder

Mr Michael Mescher, Labour MP for Oldham West in Greater Manchester, yesterday wrote to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, asking for an early statement in the Commons to the effect that the arming of the police would not be allowed to proceed further than in strict accordance with the Home Secretary's guidelines of March 22.

Mr Mescher said he was extremely disturbed at the action of Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, in putting armed police patrols on the streets and in taking "a major and unauthorized step down the route towards a permanently armed police, which I do not believe the great majority of the people in this country want".

The guidelines issued on March 22, which did not have the force of law, said that firearms would be issued only where there was reason to suppose that a police officer might have to face a person armed or so dangerous that he could not be safely restrained without the use of firearms, Mr Mescher said.

But police in Manchester were being armed in case they encountered armed persons, which represented an entirely



Mr Michael Mescher: "Disturbed" at arming of police.

different type of policing which had never been sanctioned or given public approval, he said. He urged Mr Whitelaw to move an amendment to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to specify clearly the exact purpose and limits of gun issue to the police.

He said he did not believe that chief constables who continued to behave with such brazen disregard for their police authorities as Mr Anderton had displayed should remain in office.

Judge backs firearms for police

A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday defended the policy of police carrying firearms in the fight against armed criminals. Judge Hazan, QC made his comments in commending two police officers for the capture of a man who aimed a revolver at them.

He said that Constables Peter Dalby and Mark Lamb, both motor cyclists, had acted in the "best traditions of the police". They had been unharmed when they tackled Roy Hilder, aged 32, a car dealer, of Bromley Avenue, Bromley, Kent, and showed "courage and tenacity".

Hilder was imprisoned for two years for possessing a loaded .45 revolver in Rotherhithe New Road, Bermondsey.

Judge Hazan said: "Hardly a day goes by but a basically unarmed policeman finds that he is having to deal with armed men, either actually committing offences or in possession of firearms."

"Understandably, public controversy is aroused over the arming of certain sections of the police to deal with this situation. What is sometimes forgotten is that if it was not for this type of offence being on the increase then extra precautions would not be necessary."

Foreigners receive strong reply

By Harry Golombek

The results of the adjourned games from the first round of the Charlton Jubilee International Chess tournament were mostly in favour of the foreign opposition. But nevertheless the home players acquitted themselves well against their strong opponents. Already on Wednesday young Neil Bradburn had covered himself with glory by defeating the Hungarian Grandmaster János Flesch.

Though two of our leading women players, Sheila Jackson and Susan Walker, were defeated by powerful foreign masters, Susan Walker losing to the West German Fide Master G. Treppner and Sheila Jackson losing to the strong French player E. Prie.

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The flood of information was almost too much to handle, and some of it proved to be little more than useless, but it did include the name of one of the key figures in the gang, a man later convicted for his role in the raid.

This week the police and loss adjusters called in after the 47m Security Express robbery on Monday are waiting to see if a new record

Bid to resolve differences in Anglicanism

From Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent, Loughborough

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Eric Kemp, leader of the Anglo-Catholic movement in the Church of England, yesterday offered the opposing Evangelical wing of the church the prospect of talks to attempt to solve their differences on certain doctrinal matters. He also proposed that the movement should initiate discussions with the Free Churches.

Dr Kemp recalled various recent controversies in which the Anglo-Catholics had been at odds with others, in particular the West German Fide Master G. Treppner and Sheila Jackson losing to the strong French player E. Prie.

There is an urgent need for dialogue within the church of England on ministry," he declared in a presidential address to the Anglo-Catholic "renewal" congress at Loughborough.

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Mrs Margaret Burns, wife of PC William Burns, who was shot in the mouth after stopping a car with PC Owen Lakes in Bristol.

Hostage tells of 100-mile M4 ordeal

By Michael Hornell

Mr Anthony Hatton, a lorry driver taken hostage at gunpoint in Bristol, spoke yesterday about his 100-mile ordeal. Meanwhile, detectives interviewed a man detained at the city police headquarters and waited at the hospital bedside of another man who was injured by armed officers during a £30,000 bank raid.

Mr Hatton, who was reunited with his wife aged 35, and son aged 10, at their home in Wellingsborough yesterday, said he was delivering goods for Cow & Gate at Frenchay hospital, Bristol, and was about to reverse into a yard when he was ordered by a gunman to drive along the M32 and M4 to London.

"He was panicking at the beginning and near the end, when it was obvious the police were going to get him," he said. "But the rest of the time he was calm as I talked to him. I was not terrified until the end of the journey."

"I tried to persuade him to give himself up but it was no use, even though the police cars were following us 50 yards behind and I was only travelling at 40-50 miles an hour all the way."

"I felt alright while we were on the move to London. It was then that he was getting his way. But I knew the police would stop us sooner or later."

The pursuit ended near Maidenhead when the man gave himself up after the M4 had been blocked by lorries commandeered

by police. Earlier two men had escaped from Lloyds Bank in Bond Street, Bristol, in a Mercedes car which was temporarily stopped by a community constable William Burns, who was unarmed. PC Burns was then shot.

The injured man was said to be stable and under sedation at Bristol's Royal Infirmary but a second operation for his gunshot wounds was expected.

PC Burns, aged 34, was also said to be in a stable condition at Frenchay Hospital after surviving a shot in the mouth, the impact of which was softened by his teeth.

His wife, Mrs Margaret Burns, aged 33, said he had used his trachea to smash a window of the escaping Mercedes but was shot as he did so.

"In general I am against police being armed. But obviously there are times when firearms are needed on special occasions. But I am very, very glad they are used with great discrimination. My husband has lost three teeth, torn out by the roots; but he is otherwise looking marvellous."

Det Supt Donald Taylor, who is in charge of the police investigation, said yesterday that evidence was still being considered and charges were not expected until today.

The police also disclosed that armed police officers involved in the pursuit of the two gunmen had earlier on Wednesday been issued with weapons for an operation unconnected with the bank raid.

Jobs loss threat to striking steelmen

From Ronald Kerahaw, Sheffield

Ten thousand striking steelworkers in South Yorkshire were warned last night that they face possible short-time working and further job losses if they strike over a demanding exercise involving the introduction of new shift patterns continues.

That was the reaction of Mr John Pennington, managing director of the British Steel Corporation (BSC) special steels division, to suggestions that the dispute may run into a second week, made by national officials of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC), who have declared the strike official.

Mr Pennington said: "We have all worked extremely hard to recover the market share lost by the 1980 steel strike."

"If demand, however, is still 25 per cent down on the 1978-79 level and spare capacity in Europe means that any continuing disruption of our business will throw away the benefits of the improved market share gained from closures and elsewhere."

He added: "If this strike continues we will find it difficult to sustain the reduced shift levels envisaged by our survival plan, and the project could again be one of short-time working and further job loss."

The BSC is clearly concerned at the 24 hours' sympathy strike which started at the corporation's Scunthorpe works among 3,000 ISTC members.

Another 5,000 at the plant continued normal working but the ISTC action was enough to bring steelmaking at the 6,000-tonne-a-day plant to a halt.

Although the union is claiming that the South Yorkshire strike is solid, there is some evidence that it is crumbling at the edges.

About 2,000 ISTC staff grades who voted to stay at work on Wednesday were sharply reminded by the union that the strike was official and they should be at home. In spite of that, upwards of 80 per cent of them were at work yesterday.

A substantial part of the reward was eventually paid out, but allegations about corruption have since led to a long-running internal Scotland Yard investigation.

The reward system has long been a feature of criminal investigations but there are few guidelines, although Scotland Yard is among those who have introduced a system of controls in recent years.

In London the controls on police informants and rewards now means that payment will be made only after the informant passes the scrutiny of the deputy assistant commissioner in charge of CID operations.

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Owen backs defence ties with US

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Labour Party campaigning aimed at ejecting United States forces from bases in Britain was described as a "horrendous gamble" last night by Dr David Owen, in a speech allying the Social Democratic Party strongly to continuance of the defence link between Britain and the United States.

Speaking in Swindon, Dr Owen, deputy leader of the SDP, said that destroying or weakening the physical defence link between the United States and Europe meant that the Soviet Union would become the supreme influence in Europe.

To send the US home or feed US isolationism allowing them to withdraw, would mean Western Europe either facing a crippling defence bill or having to start to accommodate the Soviet Union.

The nature of that accommodation would vary, and while it was not unlikely that the Soviet troops would cross into Nato countries, it would certainly lead to a regional but not a general war.

West Germany as to whether they should look east or west.

● Miss Anne Widdicombe, a university administrator and a vice-chairman of Lady Olga Maitland's "Women for Defence" organization, has been selected as prospective Conservative candidate in Dr Owen's constituency of Plymouth, Devonport.

Source: *Nature* vol 302, p536 (April 7, 1983). ©Nature-Times News Service, 1983.

Financial Times coping with US competition

By Kenneth Gosling

With European sales running at the highest in its history, the *Financial Times* is feeling the effects of the *Wall Street Journal's* incursion into Europe.

"As far as we can tell at the moment it has not affected us at all," Mr Richard McClean, the newspaper's managing director, said yesterday. "But they only started on February 1 and it is early days yet."

The *Journal* launched its European edition, printing initially in Holland, editing it in Brussels and distributing it throughout Europe and the Middle East. The *Financial Times*' total daily sales last month were 219,000, of which well over 40,000 went to Europe.

The *Journal* entered the European field with considerable advantages in the production area. Free, for example, of all the restrictions and constraints that Fleet Street imposes.

"They are perfectly able to set up multi-printing centres in Europe with no trouble at all," Mr McClean said. "And while we, know we can create a newspaper that will sell at the right price and that people want

Science report

Developing a vaccine against malaria

By the Staff of Nature

A crucial step towards the development of a vaccine against malaria has been taken at New York University, in the United States. A group of scientists led by Dr Ruth Nussenzweig in New York and Dr Nigel Goldson at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, have used genetic manipulation techniques to make a protein material carried by the malaria parasite and known to stimulate the body's immune defences against the parasite.

Although the research described has concentrated on the version of the malaria parasite that infects monkeys, the application of the technique to the parasites infecting people (of which there are four species) should present no problems.

The World Health Organization estimates that two million people die each year from malaria, mostly in developing countries. It is also estimated that as many as 200 million people may be infected with the disease at any time.

The debilitating effects of infection are probably a more serious drain on resources than the death rate.

The success reported from New York is the culmination of several years of work by Dr Nussenzweig and her colleagues. The team has concentrated on the most primitive form of the parasite, known as the sporozoite, the form in which malaria parasites are injected into the bloodstream by infectious mosquitoes.

After half an hour or so in the bloodstream, sporozoites lodge in the liver, where they mature into a quite different form, the merozoite, which circulates in the red blood cells of infected people.

The objective of the research has been to make by genetic manipulation one of the protein substances carried in the outer coat of sporozoites.

That has been done by extracting from mosquitoes nucleic acids, using the genetic information controlling the natural manufacture of the protein and turning that into a kind of artificial gene, which is then induced to make the protein in the unnatural environment of a bacterial cell.

It is hoped that it will now be possible to stimulate the normal immune response to the sporozoite form of the malaria parasite by injecting of the protein, along the lines of the use of the diphtheria toxin as a way of stimulating immunity to that disease.

One problem foreseen in the application of the new malaria vaccine is that the sporozoite protein will not necessarily stimulate the body's immune defences against other forms of the parasite. For that reason research will continue on the development of vaccines effective against such forms, but will no doubt be simplified by the demonstration that sporozoite proteins can be made artificially.

A most serious difficulty in the months ahead will be that of carrying through the development of the sporozoite vaccine. New York University, which holds a patent on the method now described for making the characteristic protein, had been negotiating with a US company, Genentech, a contract to make and test a human malaria vaccine.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also interested in the vaccine, but the exclusivity of the proposed arrangement was contrary to the rules applying to research organizations supported with WHO money. As a result Genentech has withdrawn from the negotiations.

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£2m paid to islanders in compensation for Falklands war damage

Falklands islanders have been paid more than £2m compensation for damage caused during last year's conflict with Argentina. But, even discounting the effect of the garrison now there, many are finding it hard to return to a normal life.

Some farmers are unable to work their land because it has not yet been cleared of mines, people in the capital, Port Stanley, are still being treated for depression as a direct result of the war, according to a medical expert.

The £2m paid out in compensation covers all but 30 of 561 claims submitted. The claims were for damage to houses and gardens and loss of vehicles, livestock and fences.

Many wooden farm fences were cut down and used as firewood by Argentine soldiers, and huge numbers of sheep and cattle were killed and eaten.

A special team of officers from the Ministry of Defence is on the spot to assess the claims. The farmers who cannot work their land are being paid for loss of earnings.

The anxiety of people in Port Stanley was reported yesterday by Dr Alison Bleaney, senior medical officer at the local hospital.

She said: "Subconsciously the people get a bit anxious when they hear about Argentina being resupplied with weapons and buying frigates. Although British troops are here and the islands are well protected, the war has made people feel insecure. We still get residents

coming in suffering from depression because of the war." But the islanders are still determined to give a good welcome to the families of Servicemen killed in the conflict.

More than twenty children will be offered a day at school. Mr John Fowler, Superintendent of Education in Port Stanley, said: "The idea would be to try to let them see our schools at work and to meet our school children. We would hope to have them in twos or threes in classes throughout the day."

"We are ready to fit in with whatever the visitors want to do. It is their day and we will try to provide whatever they want. Everyone here is hoping to meet the families."

Suggestions that the visit was part of a well planned political exercise were rejected by Conservatives yesterday.

Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Ayrshire South, said the visit would turn out to be a total disappointment and a terrible mistake for the relatives. He said they would be taken back by the reality of what their relatives had died for.

Mr Foulkes, who went with other members of a Commons select committee to the islands recently, described them as "The shanty town of Port Stanley, squalid sheep farms and barren islands, like many lying half forgotten off the coast of Scotland and many other countries."

Mr John Stokes, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said that it was

appalling for Mr Foulkes to use personal grief for political ends.

Fathers seek news of missing sons

Two Argentine fathers called on the Foreign Office yesterday to plead for information on their sons, both fighter pilots who were missing during the fighting in the South Atlantic.

But Mr Cranley Onslow, Minister of State, told them he had no more information than that which had already been passed to the Buenos Aires Government through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

He sympathized with them and emphasized that Britain had no quarrel with the people of Argentina. The last Argentine prisoner had been repatriated.

The bodies of 221 Argentine servicemen had been buried in a cemetery at Darwin on the islands, although only 107 had so far been identified.

The three men who saw Mr Onslow yesterday were representing the families of more than 500 young Argentines who were missing during the war and about whom there is no available information in Buenos Aires.

The delegation consisted of Senior Isaias Gimenez, from Parana, Senior Leonidas Ardiles, who is an uncle of the Tottenham Hotspur footballer, Oswaldo Ardiles, and Senior Juan Carlos Legasque, their legal adviser. They were accompanied by Senior Simran, a Chilean journalist.



New friend: Mr James Chapman, who is deaf, meeting Chum, who will be his "hearing" dog in June. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Dogs lend their ears to help the deaf

By Tony Samstag

Just over a year after the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf programme was inaugurated at Crufts Dog Show, the first partly trained animal was introduced to its new owners yesterday.

Chum, a winsome 16-month-old mongrel bitch with more than a touch of black labrador, made the acquaintance of Mr and Mrs James Chapman, of Newton Abbot, Devon, both of whom are deaf, at a press conference in London launching the annual congress of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, which opens today.

Among the guest speakers Dean Leo Bustard, professor of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, in the United States, and one of the pioneers in "pet therapy" for human patients.

The hearing dogs scheme, under the auspices of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) is, like the guide dog programme for the blind, only one example of many such "therapies".

The dogs are chosen for their ability to respond to sounds such as a doorbell or an alarm clock, and are trained to alert their owners with visual signals or physical contact. Dean Bustard, explaining the selection of dogs, said mongrels were often the best and some breeds were not suitable at all.

A great dane, for example, was "too laid back. The doorbell rings, he just opens one eye and looks up, thinks 'there's the doorbell' and goes back to sleep." The animals had to be alert, curious and affectionate.

The dog responds to the sounds by

going to the deaf owner, who is alerted by pawing, jumping, tail-wagging or whatever, then led to the front door, cooker or smoke detector. In the case of an alarm clock the dog might jump on the bed to wake the sleeper.

Hearing dogs must respond both to voice and hand signals, the RNID notes, because "many profoundly deaf recipients may enunciate words in a different way from the trainer".

More than 1,500 veterinary surgeons are attending the congress, one of the largest such held in this country. Over the weekend specialists will attend about seventy sessions on a variety of clinical topics from surgery, dermatology and cancer to pair-bonding between humans and their pets, with its implications for human health, particularly among the elderly.

IRA victim mourners cheer Fitt

From Richard Ford
Belfast

Mourners at the funeral of a man killed by the Provisional IRA in mistake for another target clapped and congratulated Mr Gerard Fitt, the independent MP for Belfast, West, yesterday as he left after attending the church service.

Applause broke out from a group of men and women standing outside St Columba's church, on the stomachy "loyalist" Dilcoyle Estate, in Bangor, co Down, where two gunmen murdered Mr James McCormick last weekend.

As Mr Fitt, a Roman Catholic, walked with his bodyguard to a waiting car he was surrounded by a jostling crowd, many of whom wanted to shake his hand.

Women pushed through the crowd to be near the MP, well known for his outspoken criticism of the Provisional IRA, saying: "It needs more people with his guts to speak out".

Others listened to his criticism of the murder by gunmen who burst into the home of Mr McCormick, aged 45, shot his wife and then pumped at least twelve bullets into his stomach and chest. One woman said of Mr Fitt: "He deserves all the credit in the world for coming down here to be with us".

Mr Fitt had slipped quietly into the back of the hearse to join other politicians, including Mr James Kilfedder, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, for the short funeral service.

Mr Fitt said afterwards: "This was one of the most brutal murders we have had and what made my blood run cold



Mr Gerard Fitt shaking hands with mourners at the funeral yesterday of Mr James McCormick.

was the sickening apology and the fact that this man's wife was shot. How do they expect people to try to understand all this?

"I felt it was necessary to let the people of this estate see that I and people of my faith would never in any circumstances condone this sort of thing."

Mr McCormick's widow, who is recovering after being shot in the leg during the attack was not at the funeral but his son James,

aged 21, and daughter Anne, aged 19, were among hundreds who crowded into the church and stood outside in the sunshine.

They heard Dr Robin Eames, Bishop of Down and Dromore, say: "It has been stated that this murder was a mistake. Let it be clearly spelt out: there can never be any mistake about murder."

Ulster's other face, page 4

Judges 'praised Narayan' New talks on TV football

Letters from two senior judges praising the courtroom competence of Mr Rudy Narayan, a barrister, were produced yesterday before the Bar Disciplinary Tribunal hearing complaints that Mr Narayan is guilty of professional misconduct.

The letters, from Lord Scarman and Lord Justice Eveleigh, were read to the tribunal, sitting at the Law Courts in London, by Mr Narayan. Lord Scarman had written: "I regard him as a most competent member of his profession."

Lord Justice Eveleigh had written: "I can confirm he has performed his duties in a proper and respectful manner."

Mr Narayan, a defence lawyer, who is also chairman of the organization Black Rights UK, is defending himself against allegations arising out of incidents at the Central Criminal Court in April last year during the trial of several youths accused of the murder of Mr Terence May.

Mr Narayan is alleged to have accused staff of the Director of Public Prosecutions of being "dirty rats" and "dishonest"; to have accused two of the director's staff of incompetence and dishonesty; to have attempted to read a confidential prosecution notebook without consent; to have publicly accused a detective superintendent of being "a liar"; and to have issued a press statement vilifying the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions in scandalous and contemptuous terms.

The hearing before the five-man tribunal, which has powers to suspend, reprimand or disbar barristers found guilty of professional misconduct, is expected to finish today.

Attempts to resolve the dispute that is threatening to take most football coverage from television screens next season will be resumed today at a meeting between officials of the Football League and television companies.

Mr Cliff Morgan and Mr John Bromley, heads of sport for BBC and independent television, are meeting the league's television subcommittee for the first time since their offer of £5.3m for two seasons' coverage was rejected.

Since then the video company, Telejector, has put in a bid of 8m for the rights to show exclusive recorded highlights of most league and domestic trophy matches in public houses and clubs. That offer has been approved by the league management committee and will go before the chairman at another special meeting on April 26.

Despite Telejector's intervention, the television companies insist that they have no more money to spare for football. They also refuse to broadcast matches involving teams wearing shirt advertising but have met the League's demand for less exposure by offering to show one live match a week.

The television companies are believed to see the league's interest in the Telejector offer as a bargaining ploy rather than a serious proposition. The prospect of moving football highlights from the living room to the public house has provoked many well-publicized objections.

Mr Jack Dunnet, Labour MP for Nottingham, East, and president of the league has said that he would be quite happy to see whether a television blackout would improve attendances.

Guardroom bullying denied

A regimental policeman who is accused of bullying guardroom prisoners said yesterday that stories of ill treatment had been invented because everyone hated service "coppers".

Lance-corporal David Laurence Powell, aged 24, told a court martial at Catterick, North Yorkshire, that he took no part in violent guardroom games and that he was a victim of malice.

Lance-corporal Powell and Trooper Neil Atkin, aged 21, both of the 47 Royal Dragon Guards, jointly face two charges of common assault.

Lance-corporal Powell faces a further six charges of common assault and one of compelling a senior aircraftman to strike a driver of the Royal Corps of Transport. Trooper Atkin also faces four charges of common assault. They deny all the charges.

Lance-corporal Powell told the hearing that he took no part in a card game called Betsy, which ended with a prisoner being beaten over the head with a clenched fist. He also said: "A regimental horsewife was in another game in which detainees held a piece of paper, but I never deliberately hit people across the knuckles when that paper became very small."

"The witnesses have concocted a pack of lies, because everyone, especially prisoners, hates regimental policemen," Lance-corporal Powell said. He took no pleasure in seeing prisoners inflicting pain on one another. The hearing continues.

Solicitor told: return files

From Our Correspondent, Bournemouth

Two quarrelling solicitors aired their dispute at Bournemouth County Court yesterday. Mr Malcolm Edwards, practising in Christchurch, Dorset, claimed that Mr Robert Cooper, his former employee, had walked out with clients' files when he was dismissed last month.

Mr Cooper, aged 48, of The Paddock, Minstead, Hampshire, explained: "I took the documents because I have been dealing with those particular clients for 18 months."

"They specifically asked me to handle their cases. They did not want to be dealt with by Malcolm Edwards. Many of them are at a critical stage in legislation and a change to another solicitor would jeopardize their cases."

Mr Cooper said that he had sold his solicitors firm to Mr Edwards for £15,000 two years ago. He alleged that the firm had defrauded him of some of the money that was owed to him, but he had agreed to hand back the contested files.

After the sale Mr Cooper continued to work as a part-time consultant for Mr Edwards for two years. But he claimed that he had not been paid £20,000 for work he had done during that time.

"Mr Edwards admitted to me in a letter that I should be paid the bulk of my bills. He owes me the money. Therefore if I give back the clients' files I should not have to owe their money to Mr Edwards."

Mr Cooper was ordered to return the removed 30 files by noon today.

School girls ran shoplifting business

A "Fagin's Ring" of school girls aged 12 and 13 set themselves up in business by shoplifting to order, a court was told yesterday.

They operated the venture on company lines by canvassing for business, receiving written orders, recording the details in duplicating books and issuing receipts after payment, Inspector Richards McCarthy, for the prosecution, told a juvenile court in Guildford, Surrey.

The girls told their customers that they had a contract to supply rejects from big stores, but the court was told that they were going on stealing sprees to keep their enterprise going.

In a statement one girl told how her classmates were asked to write their orders on pieces of

paper and hand them in if they wanted make-up.

The goods would be handed out in the playground and later the customers paid their money, which was recorded in a blue book. They were promised receipts later.

Three girls aged 12 and 13 were each fined £50 after admitting two accusations of shoplifting.

The case against another girl, aged 12, who admitted two shoplifting offences and a third of receiving stolen money, with 42 other offences taken into consideration, was adjourned for social reports.

The case against another girl, aged 12, facing three accus-

sations of shoplifting, was also adjourned.

Mr David Morgan, the magistrates' chairman, said: "We are appalled by what must be this Fagin's ring that existed in your school. This was organized crime. It was premeditated."

"This court is here to protect members of the public such as the shopkeepers from whom you stole. It is a responsibility that this court takes very seriously."

Inspector McCarthy said the girls were caught shoplifting in Fine Fare supermarket, at Milford, Surrey. Police discovered that two of them had been travelling to Godalming, Surrey, to shoplift since the beginning of the year.

13 hurt in hostel bus crash

Nine mentally handicapped schoolchildren and four teachers were injured, one critically, yesterday when their minibus was in a collision with two lorries on the M62 in West Yorkshire.

The accident happened on the westbound carriageway of the motorway at Hopetown, near Pontefract, shortly after the party from the Wakefield Council home at Hemsworth, had set off on a day's outing to Manchester airport.

Five ambulances ferried the injured, some in wheelchairs, to Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, and Pontefract General Infirmary. A spokesman at Pinderfields Hospital said four adults and six youngsters had been admitted, and one child was critically ill.

Two of the children taken to Pontefract Infirmary were discharged after treatment. A third was later said to be in satisfactory condition.

The children were aged between 7 and 15. Some were day-care youngsters and others permanent residents.

Two children die in fire

Two children, aged ten and two, died in a fire which badly damaged their home at Penrith Terrace, Ferry Fryston, Castleford, West Yorkshire, yesterday.

A boy aged five leapt from a bedroom window into the arms of another youngster, who was in the back garden, and Mrs Jamie Knowles, the children's mother also managed to escape. They were both taken to hospital with shock.

Lethal drug stolen in raid

Two bottles of Immobilon, a lethal drug, were stolen from a veterinary surgery yesterday.

The drug is an anaesthetic powerful enough to knock out big animals such as elephants and horses, but even a tiny spot on human skin could be enough to kill. It was stolen with thousands of tablets, including phenobarbitone, from Mr Robert Cathcart's surgery in Farnham, Surrey.

Further remand for Nilsen

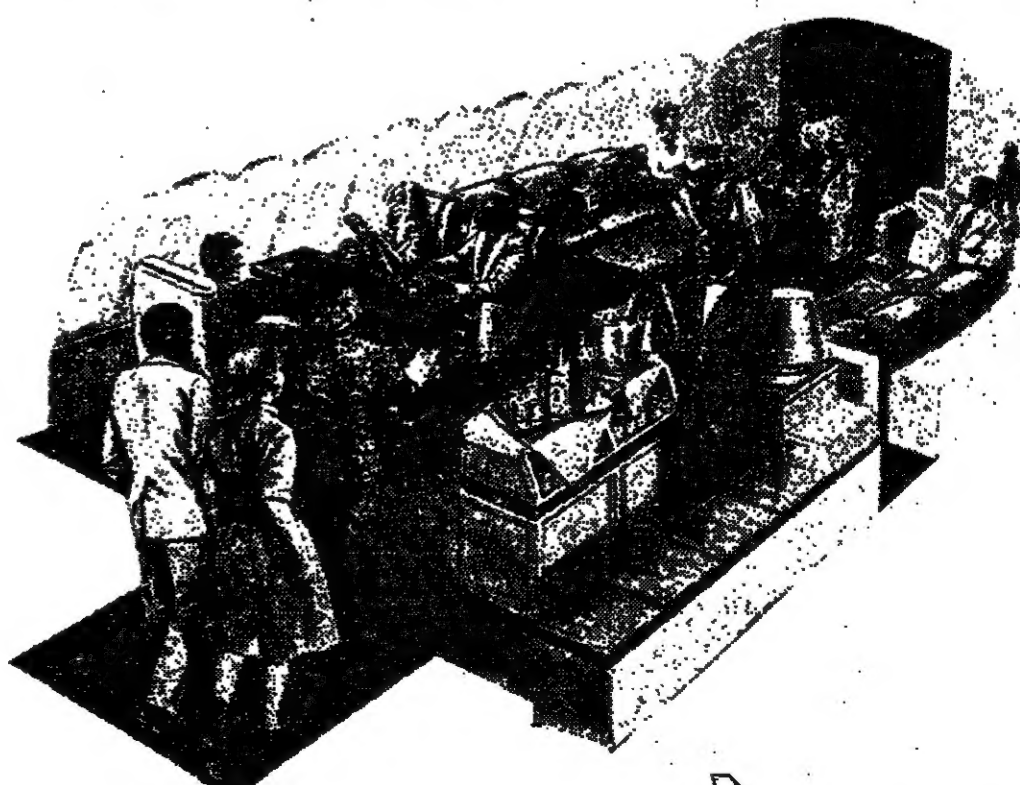
Denis Andrew Nilsen, aged 37, of Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill, north London, made his eleventh appearance at Highgate Court yesterday.

Nilsen, a former probationary policeman, accused of murdering Mr Stephen Sinclair, aged 20, at Cranley Gardens, on or about February 1, was remanded in custody, for a week.

Verdict on gypsy

A jury at Horney Coroner's Court, in north London, returned a verdict of unlawful killing at the inquest into the death of Mr Sidney Winslow, aged 42, a gypsy, who was shot on the Ridgeway, Enfield, in December, 1981, as he was locking up his lorry.

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Uproar as Mauroy wins confidence vote on austerity measures

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Despite evident disquiet among many Socialist MPs over the Government's new austerity measures and the expression of strong reservations by the Communists, the Government comfortably won its motion of confidence in its policies early yesterday by 323 votes to 155 as its supporters closed ranks in the face of a virulent attack by the Opposition.

An enabling Bill to permit the Government to introduce many of its more controversial austerity measures by decree, without need of recourse to Parliament, is due to go before MPs on Monday. The procedure, which the Government says is necessary in the interest of speed, will block debate and prevent the formation of any amendments.

The Communists, who had hoped to get the Government to accept many of their "improvements", designed to increase the taxation of the rich in order to lighten the burden on the less well-off, have already expressed strong opposition to the use of enabling legislation. They have threatened not to vote for the Bill if their proposed amendments are not taken into consideration.

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, in a one-and-a-half hour speech to Parliament in which he tried to set the Government's new policies in the context of an overall "grand design", based on a three-part industrial, social and cultural strategy, failed to convince sceptics, or appease critics. It is considered unlikely to result in the hoped-for "mobilization" of the French people.

The unions are clearly unhappy about the new measures which they believe will result in a lowering of workers' standards of living and an increase in unemployment. The independent Force Ouvrière said that the Government had "already gone too far", while the white-collar CGC spoke of its "deep disappointment" over M. Mauroy's "empty speech", which contained only "hollow dreams and bombastic phrases".

Employers, who have remained exempt from the increased taxes and levies in the Government's new measures, have been no less critical, believing that the Government should have lightened their existing financial burden.

Parliament was suspended for 30 minutes late on Wednesday night during the debate on the confidence motion after Socialist and Communist MPs walked out en masse in protest against the insults directed against M. Mauroy by M. Robert-André Vivien, spokesman for the Gaullist RPR group in the National Assembly.

"We were expecting a Prime Minister", M. Vivien said. "We found a buffoon, a manipulator, a trickster, a conjuror." When M. Vivien resumed his speech 20 minutes later, he found the Government's benches empty except for the leaders of the Socialist and Communist groups.

Soon, a new row flared up, this time provoking the mass exit of the Opposition MPs, when M. Guy Ducolone, leader of the Communist group in the National Assembly, asked M. Vivien if he were a "mercenary of a thug".

In the ensuing uproar, M. Ducolone quoted an article by M. Vivien in which he allegedly said: "Ducolone and I have a good relationship. But in the interests of France I would be ready to cut his throat tomorrow, though I would do it with regret."

Bonn seeks location of missing dioxin waste

Berne (Reuters) - Switzerland yesterday asked the chemical company Hoffmann-La Roche to tell the West German Government the location of two tonnes of toxic dioxin waste earth.

Last year the shipment of earth contaminated with dioxin, which is 10,000 times more toxic than cyanide, was moved from Italy to France, from where Bonn said it was then sent to an unidentified neighbouring country.

Mr. Alphonse Egli, the Swiss Interior Minister, has written to the Basle-based company recommending that it grant Bonn's request for information.

Hoffmann-La Roche has refused to give the location of the shipment, which resulted from an explosion in 1976 at a plant of one of its subsidiaries in Seveso, northern Italy.

Bonn asked the Swiss to put pressure on Hoffmann-La Roche, but Bern was only able to recommend that the company supply the information, a Swiss Government spokesman said.

Police in Bonn were yesterday questioning a West German firm about the contaminated shipment's disappearance.

unemployment. The independent Force Ouvrière said that the Government had "already gone too far", while the white-collar CGC spoke of its "deep disappointment" over M. Mauroy's "empty speech", which contained only "hollow dreams and bombastic phrases".

Employers, who have remained exempt from the increased taxes and levies in the Government's new measures, have been no less critical, believing that the Government should have lightened their existing financial burden.

Parliament was suspended for 30 minutes late on Wednesday night during the debate on the confidence motion after Socialist and Communist MPs walked out en masse in protest against the insults directed against M. Mauroy by M. Robert-André Vivien, spokesman for the Gaullist RPR group in the National Assembly.

"We were expecting a Prime Minister", M. Vivien said. "We found a buffoon, a manipulator, a trickster, a conjuror." When M. Vivien resumed his speech 20 minutes later, he found the Government's benches empty except for the leaders of the Socialist and Communist groups.

Soon, a new row flared up, this time provoking the mass exit of the Opposition MPs, when M. Guy Ducolone, leader of the Communist group in the National Assembly, asked M. Vivien if he were a "mercenary of a thug".

In the ensuing uproar, M. Ducolone quoted an article by M. Vivien in which he allegedly said: "Ducolone and I have a good relationship. But in the interests of France I would be ready to cut his throat tomorrow, though I would do it with regret."



Police haul: Close custody for one of about 3,500 people who demonstrated against Reagan policies when the US President visited Pittsburgh

Kidnap victim freed unharmed

From Our Correspondent, Madrid

One of the two businessmen kidnapped last month by terrorists returned unharmed to his home in the northern city of San Sebastian, early yesterday while more than 1,000 police continued an unprecedented search for the other hostage in one of Madrid's most densely populated areas.

Bearded and wearing the same clothes as when he was abducted 17 days earlier, Señor Jesus Guibert rang the doorbell of his home at about 2 a.m. He told his family he had been held prisoner in a cave and was led blindfolded on foot for about an

hour to a road near the coastal town of Zarauz late on Wednesday. From there he hitchhiked to San Sebastian.

The wide search in Madrid's Barrio del Pilar district, which was reported to involve 1,123 members of the various police forces, began on Wednesday

Russia warns Asean on aid to rebels

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

As the United States promised yesterday to accelerate deliveries of arms to Thailand which is engaged in a serious border conflict with Vietnam, the Soviet Union issued a warning that Hanoi would begin giving aid to insurgencies in South-East Asia if countries there continued to support anti-Vietnamese guerrillas in Cambodia.

Mr. Mikhail Kapitsa, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, made a threat to Mr. Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, the Singapore Deputy Prime Minister, during a three-day visit, according to a Singapore Government statement.

Mr. Araratnam dismissed the threat as propaganda and pointed out that the subversive groups in Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations) were "pro-Chinese not pro-Hanoi".

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister, disclosed yesterday that the United States had promised to accelerate deliveries of advanced fighter-bomber intercept aircraft, tanks, anti-aircraft guns and anti-tank missiles.

Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, who is visiting Thailand, told journalists in Bangkok that some arms might be flown to Thailand, which procures most of its American weapons on favourable credit terms.

General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, the army commander-in-chief, said that all Vietnamese troops who had intruded into Thailand during the past week, had been driven back across the border. He said that a second air strike on Wednesday forced back about 60 Vietnamese soldiers who crossed the border with several Soviet-built tanks.

Mr. Wolfowitz, after visiting the border area, condemned Vietnam's "deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against

women and children and refugees inside Thailand". He said that the Vietnamese were shelling the refugees even after they entered Thailand.

Vietnam, he added, was trying to achieve a military solution which would allow it to continue its occupation of Cambodia.

Mr. Wolfowitz said that the United States would go on confining its support for anti-Vietnamese groups of Cambodians to humanitarian aid. Anything more would not be helpful in the quest for a political solution.

In the first criticism by a national figure of Thailand's policy on Cambodia, General Kriangsak Chomanan, the former Thai Prime Minister, last night urged the Thai Government to drop its support for the Cambodian anti-Vietnamese coalition Government and adopt a strictly neutral policy.

General Kriangsak, who leads the opposition National Democratic Party, said that the present policy had no hope of success.

Involvement in the military conflict in Cambodia should be only "a last resort for national defence".

● HANOI - Vietnam has no more than 10,000 people detained in reeducation camps, well below the 20,000 to 50,000 reported by Western news media and human rights groups, Mr. Phan Hien, the Justice Minister, said here.

Mr. Phan also denied that any American soldiers who had fought in the Vietnam war remained in the country, either as prisoners or voluntarily, AFP reports.

In an interview Mr. Phan said that the number of detainees would continue to fall as an "on-the-spot" reeducation policy was to be introduced for minor offenders which would limit the number of new admissions to the camps.

Restraint on press visits to Soweto

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Foreign journalists here have been told that they will have to seek special permission from the South African authorities every time they wish to visit Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg, during the month of June.

Normally foreign journalists are given a renewable three-month permit by the West Rand Administration Board which entitles them to enter Soweto "for the sole purpose of news coverage" at any time between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Mr. V. Milne, the administrative director of the board, told *The Times* that "unfortunately there is an abnormal situation in Soweto at that time of the year, and we want to avoid problems and any danger to persons that might arise."

Mr. Milne said that whether or not access to Soweto would be granted during June would depend "on the situation in Soweto itself" as well as the person and organization making the request for the visit. He said that the same restrictions would also apply to local journalists.

In recent years there have often been demonstrations and protest meetings in Soweto on or near June 16, the day in 1976 when a march by 20,000 Soweto schoolchildren in protest against the compulsory use of Afrikaans in secondary schools started a year or more of riots which left an estimated 660 people dead across the country.

The Government's move is evidently an attempt to deny publicity to such manifestations in future.

Nkomo son released from prison

Harare (Reuters) - The son of Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe Opposition leader, has been freed from jail where he had been held since his father fled the country, a Government spokesman said yesterday.

He said Mr. Tulani Nkomo, aged 25, had been held on suspicion of having helped his father leave the country illegally on March 8. Mr. Joshua Nkomo had clambered across a border fence into Botswana, saying Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, had ordered him to be killed.

Mr. Joshua Nkomo's wife, daughter and son-in-law were also detained. The women were released after a few days, but Mr. John Ndlovu, the son-in-law, is still in jail. Mr. Joshua Nkomo has been in Britain for the past month.

Also released yesterday was Mr. Sidney Malunga, a member of Parliament for Mr. Nkomo's opposition Zapu party, who had been detained for a month for questioning on possible security offences, the government spokesman said.

Mr. Malunga was detained when troops swooped on the Matabeleland provincial capital of Bulawayo at the beginning of March in a drive against rebels.

● Mr. Ian Smith says he will use his new British passport to travel to South Africa for medical treatment as soon as possible, Stephen Taylor writes.

"I have been needing treatment outside the country for three months but have not been able to travel without a passport," the former Rhodesian Prime Minister said from his farm in central Zimbabwe. "I will not waste time now."

King to discuss Spain's abortion Bill with Pope

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

King Juan Carlos of Spain is to have an audience today with the Pope at which, according to reports here, he will explain his position over the Socialist Government's plans to legalize abortion under certain circumstances.

The King, who reigns under the 1978 democratic constitution, has been publicly "remindeed" by some of the more conservative Spanish bishops of an alleged duty as a Catholic monarch not to give his assent to an "immoral law".

Publicly, the purpose of the brief royal trip to Rome is said to be to express the Spanish people's gratitude for the Pope's exhausting 10-day official visit last autumn, an apparently unnecessary gesture in view of the exchanges of messages of thanks sent immediately afterwards.

A campaign around the Socialist Bill, now before Parliament, has been mounted by conservative Spanish Catholics, after the Pope's vigorous condemnation in Madrid of abortion under all circumstances.

Mr. José Guerra Campos, the Bishop of Cuenca, who is well known for his right-wing sympathies and is one of the leaders of the anti-abortion campaign, publicly told the King in a pastoral letter a few weeks ago that he would be responsible with the Govern-

ment if he "sanctioned" the abortion law.

"Catholics who occupy public posts and who promote or facilitate the commission of the crime of abortion will not be able to escape the moral qualification of public sinners", he declared.

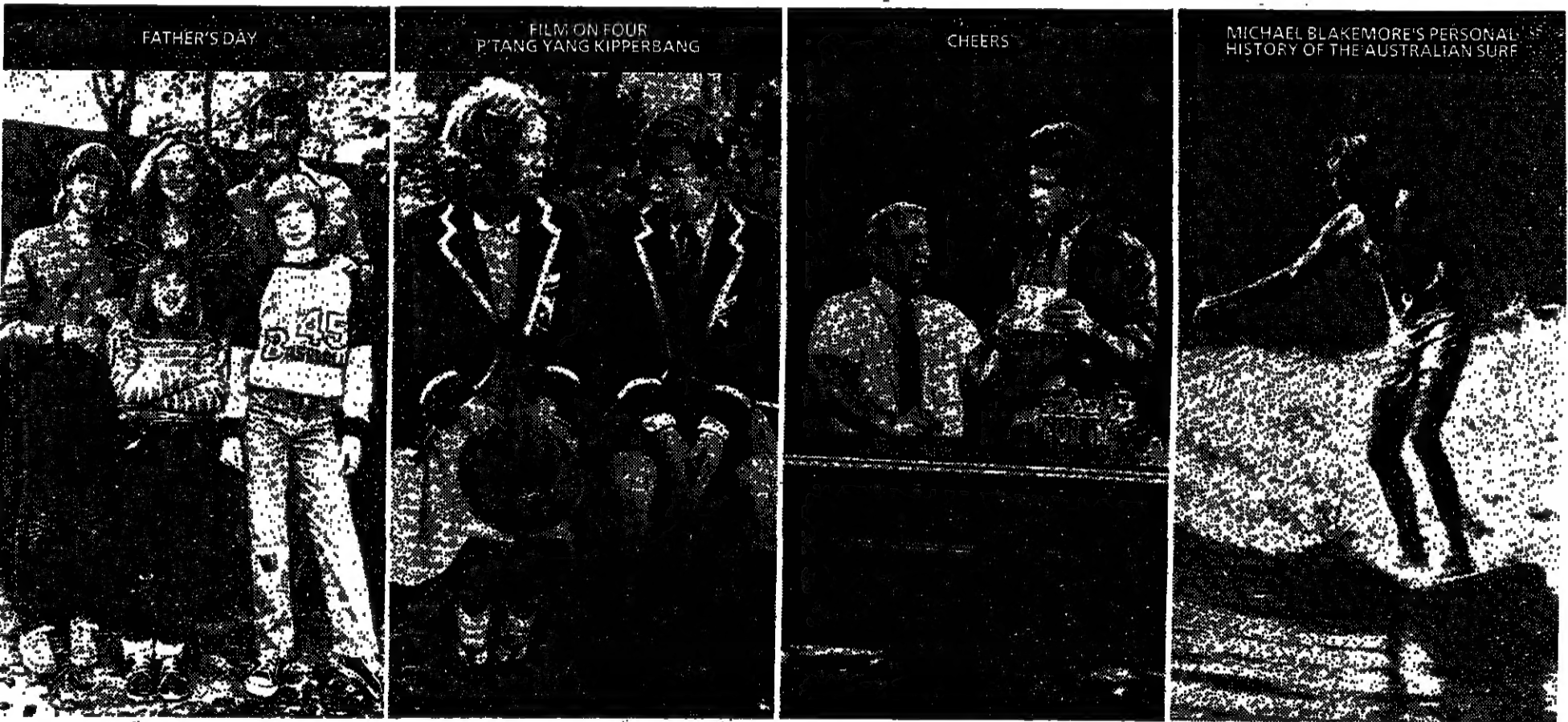
He also warned any Catholics supporting abortion in any way that they risked excommunication and maintained they had a moral duty to defy a "tyrannical Government" if it passed a law offensive to God.

King Juan Carlos, according to the report, will reiterate to the Vatican that he is not personally responsible under the constitution for any acts of the Government and that as a good Catholic he personally does not encourage such a law.

The Cuenca bishop's broadside, front-paged by *El Alcazar*, the Madrid right-wing daily, was an embarrassment to less traditional elements of the Spanish church, overstepping the limits separating church and state.

Mr. Gabino Diaz Merchan, chairman of the Spanish bishops' national conference, on Wednesday emphasized at Navarra University that the church neither could, nor should, identify itself with any political or social system.

Church sources here believe the King's position is well understood by the Vatican.



If you liked what you saw last night you should see what's coming.

MONDAYS AT 9.00 'VIETNAM':

A 12-part documentary of which the Times said: "It is a tough film. Contrasting with the bizarre complexities of the politics is the random simplicity of a cyclist spattered scarlet on the streets of Phnom Penh by a Khmer Rouge rocket."

MONDAYS AT 10.00 FROM 18th APRIL, 'ST. ELSEWHERE': Humour from the Boston hospital you wouldn't want to be a patient in, unless you want to die with laughter.

TUESDAYS AT 8.30, 'SWALK':

The growing-up drama of gawky Amanda who seems to prefer fantasy to reality. With Prunella Scales.

THURSDAYS AT 8.00, 'THE OPTIMIST':

Six silent funnies about sporting Nigel, who always manages to get the gorgeous girl.

THURSDAYS AT 9.30, FROM 28th APRIL, FILM ON FOUR: The British cinema is alive and well as you'll see. Starting with 'Angel' set in Ireland. Then 'Moonlighting', 'First Love - Secrets', produced by David Puttnam, 'Nelly's Version', 'Walter and June', 'Living Apart Together', 'I'll Fares the Land', 'Red

Monarch', 'Bad Sister' and the critically acclaimed 'Draughtsman's Contract'.

FRIDAYS AT 10, 'CHEERS':

If you didn't see it last night see it now, the American bar-room comedy.

SATURDAYS AT 11.00, THE 'LATE CLIVE JAMES SHOW':

With Clive James persuading his guests to talk on screen the way they do off it.

SUNDAYS AT 8.15, 'TELL THE TRUTH':

A quiz show hosted by Graeme Garden, and guests like Peter Cook and Willie Rushton.

SUNDAYS AT 8.45, 'FATHER'S DAY':

Starring John Alderton as the parent baffled by his family.

SUNDAYS AT 9.15, 'BRIDESHEAD REVISITED':

The most lavish British TV production ever, the classic story of an aristocratic family in decline.

These are just a sample of the programmes on offer. For films, dramas, documentaries, dance, comedy and sport - tune into Channel 4.

See for yourself on Channel Four.



State Department raises doubt on legality of Nicaragua involvement

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

High-ranking State Department officials have raised questions about the legality of American involvement in covert military operations against Nicaragua, according to a front-page *New York Times* story yesterday.

In another front-page story the newspaper disclosed that according to a highly-classified document, President Reagan had approved a policy last April aimed at preventing a "proliferation of Cuba-model states" in Central America that could threaten the US militarily and economically. Officials made no immediate comment on either of the two stories.

Despite strong misgivings by many Congressmen, the Reagan Administration has been extremely tight-lipped about reports that the US is giving covert aid to counter-revolutionaries operating from bases in Honduras.

The officials have said repeatedly that it is not the practice of American governments to comment on supposed intelligence matters. But they have said publicly that the Reagan Administration is not helping to overthrow the Sandinista Government.

America is barred by law from taking any action "for the purpose of overthrowing the government of Nicaragua".

One of the *New York Times* stories said that top policy makers and legal experts in the State Department had claimed that contrary to law and to agreed Administration policy, guerrilla actions in Nicaragua supported by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the US

military had gone beyond efforts to block supplies from Nicaragua to left-wing Salvadoran insurgents and could be seen as intended to overthrow the Sandinista Government.

These concerns, along with more vigorous charges by a number of Senators, were brought to the attention of the White House in several meetings last week. But according to officials no decisions were made to curtail the operations.

The story said that State Department officials had not argued that the CIA and the American military were deliberately acting contrary to policy. Rather, they suggested that in carrying out the policy at this stage it was almost impossible not to cross the bounds of legality from the interdiction of arms supplies to the destabilization of the Nicaraguan Government.

The other *New York Times* story was based on a highly classified document summarizing the meeting between President Reagan and his senior foreign policy advisers last April on policy towards Central America. The newspaper published the text of the document.

Security forces have "discovered" over several months about a dozen abandoned anti-Sandinista camps along the Nicaraguan border, but local residents say many active camps still exist. Residents also report frequent comings and goings in recent weeks of helicopters said to be bringing supplies to these camps.

● SAN JOSE: The capture of an arms-laden helicopter confirmed that an anti-Sand-

nist guerrilla group is receiving arms and supplies through officially neutral Costa Rica in preparation for a promised offensive against the Nicaraguan Government, Martha Honey writes.

While mystery still shrouds the incident, it is known that late on Monday night a helicopter full of arms landed on a road just south of Los Chiles on the border. The helicopter belongs to a Costa Rican-based company run by Nicaraguan refugees. Two Nicaraguans, a pilot and a Miskito Indian from Nicaragua's Atlantic coast, were detained and are being held under heavy security in San Jose.

When confronted with this information, a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), a Costa Rican-based anti-Sandinista movement stated: "Unfortunately it (the helicopter) was working for us."

Other ARDE sources denied any knowledge of the helicopter.

● MANAGUA: Gunmen, believed to be a right-wing death squad, shot dead Señora Melida Amaya Montes, a Salvadoran woman guerrilla leader, in a hail of bullets at a house near the Nicaraguan capital.

Señora Amaya Montes, known as Comandante Ana Maria, was second-in-command of the Popular Liberation Force (FPL), one of the five guerrilla groups fighting the American-backed Government in El Salvador.



Allan Goodman, an American-born Israeli soldier, raises his manacled hands after being sentenced to life imprisonment by a Jerusalem court yesterday for the murder of a Muslim guard while shooting his way into the Dome of the Rock shrine last April. His plea of insanity was rejected.

Kissinger admits PLO meeting

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The *Washington Post* reported yesterday that Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, conferred secretly in Morocco last November with a senior aide to Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, "in a meeting that has become a complicating factor in the Reagan Administration's drive for a Middle East peace settlement".

The front-page story quoted Dr Kissinger as saying that he had met for 30 minutes Mr Ahmed Dajani, a member of the PLO's executive committee, in Rabat in late November. But he insisted that the meeting with Mr Dajani "had absolutely no political significance".

Stating that he was not conducting "my own foreign policy", he added that he was aware before the meeting that Mr Dajani was a PLO official.

The newspaper report said that United States officials who confirmed the Kissinger-Dajani meeting vehemently denied on Wednesday that Dr Kissinger had sought to set up a "back channel" to the PLO that would have undercut the Reagan Administration's efforts to bring Mr Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan together on a formula allowing Jordan to join peace negotiations with Israel.

A State Department spokesman had no immediate formal comment. But officials emphasized that United States policy towards the PLO continued to be that laid down by Dr Kissinger when he was Secretary of State in 1975. Under this the United States will not hold formal talks with the PLO until it accepts Israel's right to exist, together with the Security Council resolution 242 of November, 1967.

The *Washington Post* quoted qualified sources who said that the Kissinger-Dajani meeting appeared to Mr Arafat to hold out hope that he could achieve direct contacts with the United States without having to make a deal with King Hussein and as a result, the PLO leader began in February a delaying campaign in the negotiations with the Jordanian monarch.

Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, was reported to have advised the King during a trip to London last month that the Reagan Administration had nothing to do with the Kissinger-Dajani discussion.

● Dr Kissinger later confirmed the report in a television interview, but said he did not know of the man's PLO connection and called their brief talk "an inconsequential conversation". AP reports.

Red Cross want illness investigated

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

After a visit to the West Bank by one of its doctors, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva is recommending the setting up of a full inquiry into the mysterious illness affecting hundreds of people, particularly schoolgirls.

Its delegate, Dr Franz Altherr, who returned here on Monday after four days of visiting West Bank hospitals, examining cases and discussing the symptoms with their Palestinian doctors, has carried out numerous evaluation missions in the West Bank and Gaza over the past decade. He also met several West Bank personalities and the Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Health.

The ICRC pointed out yesterday that the doctors could do no more than assess the situation, an inquiry not being within its present mandate. Its communique added: "In view of the objective findings of its doctor-delegate and what he perceived with regard to the number of hospitalizations and the uncertainty being experienced by the victims and the population, the ICRC recommends the setting up of a full-fledged inquiry."

Murderer hanged in public park in Beirut

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Only one day before the execution, Mr Gemayel's decision to reactivate capital punishment appeared an attempt to restore confidence in the state after eight years of civil strife and turmoil.

There was little comment from official and other circles on the execution. Tarraf's counsel Mr Nimeh Nimeh, said the execution came at a time when "the country is mostly under occupation and crimes are still being committed."

He added that at the rate of the thousands of killings that took place in the past eight years a quarter of the population would have to be sentenced to death.

The last legal execution in Lebanon was in 1972, when Tewfik Itani, a blacksmith, was hanged in a Beirut prison for murdering his brother-in-law.

● KUWAIT: Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and other Palestinian officials again held talks here yesterday on whether to let King Hussein of Jordan represent them in peace talks with Israel. Reuters reports.

Two Kuwait newspapers reported that King Hussein had given Mr Arafat 48 hours to decide whether to give him a mandate for the peace talks proposed by President Reagan.

Israeli dissenters return campaign ribbons

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

In a country which already has more than its fair share of war heroes, a new generation has emerged this week at ceremonies in which the 36 individual awards for bravery arising from the war in Lebanon, Israel's sixth and most controversial conflict, were presented. Twelve of the citations were made posthumously.

The dissent which has dogged the war since the invasion was launched last June, has continued with the disclosure shortly before the ceremonies that several hundred Israeli reservists presented with campaign ribbons for their part in the conflict have returned them to the army. No exact figure for the number of protesters is yet available.

Because of the high standards which have been set in the past, no members of the Israeli Defence Forces qualified for the country's highest award, the Medal for Heroism, the equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

It went on: "When the remaining force reached the objective and entered the enemy's trenches, two more soldiers were hit, but despite the few men he had left under his command, Lieutenant Goldman decided to continue with the battle."

One was First Lieutenant Mordechai Goldman, from the crack Golan Infantry Brigade, who was deputy commander of the force which captured Beaufort Castle, the former Crusader stronghold which had effortlessly resisted repeated Israeli air attacks until it was stormed by soldiers in the early stages of the fighting.

The citation read yesterday in front of an audience which included Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, described how the force of 21 men which Lieutenant Goldman was leading towards heavily fortified Palestinian positions to the north of the hilltop castle, came under fire, resulting in several casualties.

But the committees which make the decision on the basis of at least three eyewitnesses declared that two men should get the Medal of Valour, the second most coveted battle honour.

He personally led his men, running on the outside of the trench, hurling grenades and engaging enemy forces. He was often compelled to return to the main body of his men for more ammunition.

During the battle, later described as some of the fiercest hand to hand combat in recent Middle Eastern warfare, Lieutenant Goldman assumed command when the company commander was killed, and completed the capture of the castle.

The other top honour went to Captain Moshe Krawitz, who was deputy commander of the company, said yesterday that he was "lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time."

The third occasion on which he went back, he was injured in the legs by an explosion.

After his commander's tank was hit, the captain took charge, and extricated the crews of two other tanks hit by anti-tank missiles. "While reorganizing the force, Krawitz's own tank was hit, but he continued fighting," read his citation.

While leading his crew to safety, Krawitz noticed that the driver of his tank was missing. He returned to it under intense enemy fire and, while attempting to bring it to safety, sustained three more hits.

Despite the fact that he was injured, he continued to bring in wounded men from the area of ambush, all this under constant enemy fire.

Corporal Bneiya Blum, who three times entered the same minefield to rescue wounded comrades, said yesterday that he was "lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time."

The third occasion on which he went back, he was injured in the legs by an explosion.

Letter from Dubai

Wheelchair Emir who likes a lick of paint

From his splendid green-roofed palace behind Dubai wily old Shaikh Rashid can contemplate his most spectacular creation - the 39 storey International Trade Centre. Billed as the tallest building in the Middle East, the 150-foot high gleaming white tower is a symbol of the fabulous wealth amassed by the Shaikh during his 25 year reign in this tiny Gulf emirate.

Long before the British left what used to be the Trucial States entirely to their own devices in 1971, the Merchant Prince, as he has become known, had already made a fortune transforming one of the lower Gulf's best natural creeks into a thriving commercial centre. The subsequent discovery of vast oil reserves which now yield some 350,000 barrels a day have just been icing on the financial cake.

Unlike some of the other Gulf rulers, Shaikh Rashid has always taken a close - some of his critics would say too close - personal interest in the way that Dubai has developed. Driving past the Trade Centre on one of his inspection tours of the city, he decided that its original pale grey exterior was much too drab. Scaffolding was hastily erected around the building and for the next six months an army of workmen swarmed over the tower with paintbrushes, much to the annoyance of patrons at the adjoining Hilton Hotel, who found their cars speckled with white paint.

There was a time when the ruler was up at first light and driving around the city to make sure everything was running smoothly before starting work in his office on the quayside at eight o'clock sharp.

His door was always open, recalls Mr Bill Duff, a British financial adviser, and decisions were taken without recourse to any of the red tape which plagues other parts of the Middle East.

But about three years ago, Shaikh Rashid, then in his late sixties, was taken seriously ill with a kidney complaint. This caused consternation at the time because as ruler of the second most important emirate - Abu Dhabi is the biggest - Shaikh Rashid had only just belatedly agreed to become Prime Minister of the still fragile federation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Now he spends much of his time in a wheelchair, his photograph rarely appearing among the dozens of flattering pictures of the shaikhs which feature prominently in the thriving but differential English-language papers in the UAE. Fortunately for the future of Dubai, Shaikh Rashid has limited himself to one wife and this factor should forestall too much family rivalry when he eventually dies.

By most accounts his four sons, led by Shaikh Maktoum, deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince of Dubai, get on reasonably well together. Shaikh Maktoum, who was educated in the West and is

now in his mid-forties, has already taken over many of the tasks once carried out by his father. He is liked but apparently lacks the ambition, personal touch and financial wizardry of his father.

His younger brother, Shaikh Muhammad, has inherited his father's drive but his responsibilities have been somewhat limited. At the end of last month one of his main tasks was to plant a sapling in a park in central Dubai and open a flower exhibition as part of the federation's Plant a Tree programme. Thanks to irrigation, Dubai picks itself out as one of the greenest cities in the Gulf.

Although bulldozers are still much in evidence flattening the sand to make way for the latest in Western technology, the desert is now being cleared to make way for less ambitious schemes than the high-rise banks, dock complexes and airports of the 1970s. Current building work is concentrated on infrastructure projects like new roads and the construction of small towns to settle the increasingly rare groups of wandering Bedouin tribesmen.

Shaikh Rashid took the decision to scale down development at the time of the Iranian revolution when the Dubai economy suffered its first real setback. During the days of the Shah 60 per cent of the emirate's re-exports, mostly luxury goods, were ferried by motor-powered, dhow across the Gulf to be unloaded in Iranian ports.

The return of Ayatollah Khomeini from exile in France took a heavy toll on the economy. The trade almost overnight. One Dubai merchant, for example himself the owner of \$12m worth of tyres which would only fit vehicles in Iran. They are still rotting away in a warehouse.

The recent fall in world oil prices has also affected the local economy, although Shaikh Rashid has insisted that Dubai cannot participate in the latest Opec production cuts. He has argued with some justification that Dubai needs to keep its extraction rate at its present level because the local British-built aluminium smelter provides much of the emirate's supply of fresh water and needs the fuel to keep its furnaces burning. It will, therefore, be up to Abu Dhabi, the largest oil-producer among the emirates, to shoulder the lion's share of the cut-backs.

Nevertheless, the world-wide recession has hardly impinged on the lifestyle of Dubai's inhabitants. The large white expatriate community, of whom probably some 15,000 are British, continue to enjoy the benefits of one of the most politically stable and relaxed Islamic states in the Middle East. Only the less privileged workers from the Indian sub-continent, who far outnumber native Dubaians, are likely to suffer if the economy continues to slow down and their work permits are no longer renewed.

David Cross

Oil slick hits coast of Bahrain

Manama (AFP) - As Iraq and Iran continued to argue yesterday over how to tackle the massive Gulf oil leak, the first slick reached the north coast of Bahrain and fears grew for oil supplies shipped through the Strait of Hormuz.

However, there was some doubt about whether the pollution, in the form of a swathe of glutinous crude along the high-water mark, was from damaged Iranian oil wells in the north-eastern gulf about 650 miles away or from nearby shipwrecks. The beach is also polluted with rubbish including a wrecked car.

The Gulf has long been considered to be the most polluted sea in the world. A member of the airborne team monitoring the main body of the leakage, which was the size of Belgium before it broke into pieces, said as surveillance had not been carried out before, no one knew the condition of the sea in normal circumstances.

The three main problems are that the oil threatens freshwater drinking supplies from desalination plants, particularly in Qatar which is entirely dependent on such supplies; that the oil will concentrate in the Strait of Hormuz, seriously threatening oil supplies to consuming countries; and that the Gulf's only other natural resource, will be harmed and the fishing industry damaged.

In Kuwait, meanwhile, a meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, which had been delayed until yesterday morning, was delayed again until later in the day.

Iraq maintains that Iran must make an official commitment to a "partial and temporary ceasefire" under the aegis of the United Nations so that repairs can be carried out to the damaged Iranian wells at Nowruz, Mr Sadegh Alouchi, the Iraqi Health Minister, said yesterday.

Iraq alone could not give guarantees as the wells were in the war zone affected by fighting between Iraq and Iran.

Soviet army officers held by British

Bonn (Reuters) - A number of Soviet Army officers attached to the military mission who were near West Germany's border with The Netherlands were detained by British military police on Tuesday for questioning. The civilian police had stopped them in the area of Jülich.

They were released but the case was now under scrutiny, a British Army spokesman said. He declined to comment on reports that the Russians were stopped near a nuclear plant.

Lawyer missing

San José, Costa Rica, (AFP) - Señora Yolanda Urizar, a Guatemalan trade union lawyer, has disappeared after being seized by security troops in civilian clothes. She recently returned to Guatemala after President Rios Montt's promises of freer political activity.

Heroin haul

Frankfurt (AFP) - Customs officers seized 86lb of pure heroin at Frankfurt Airport, the biggest haul ever in West Germany. They arrested a man of 25 who arrived from Delhi heading for London. In Amsterdam 21lb of heroin was seized, and nine people were arrested.

Beatle spot

New York (AFP) - The city council approved plans for a three-acre "Strawberry Fields" site in Central Park to John Lennon, the former Beatle shot dead in New York in December, 1980. His widow, Yoko Ono, gave the city \$500,000 (£330,000) for it.

Hijacker jailed

Mombasa (AP) - Ali Jama Kawi, aged 22, a Kenyan who lived in Somalia, was jailed for 15 years for the mid-flight hijack of a small aircraft from Mogadishu, to this Indian Ocean port last Saturday. He wanted to go to Ethiopia but the pilot did not have enough fuel.

Soviet block plea for Nato contacts

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact nations yesterday issued a warning that the nuclear situation in Europe was "fraught with dangerous consequences", and appealed to the Nato countries to resolve the question of medium-range missiles "in a way which precludes the deployment of new American missiles".

The appeal came in a communique issued at the end of a meeting in Prague attended by Soviet block foreign ministers, including Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Last Saturday Mr Gromyko rejected President Reagan's offer of an "interim proposal" on medium-range missiles in Europe as "unacceptable".

The Warsaw Pact communique was moderate in tone, and emphasized the need for agreement and dialogue with the Nato powers. It was in marked contrast to more bellicose recent statements by Soviet leaders, including Marshal Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, who warned the United States on Wednesday that Russia would strike back at America if it was attacked by American missiles on European soil.

Yesterday's statement in Prague, released by Tass, gave no hint of how agreement with Nato might be achieved, or whether the Soviet block was prepared to make any concessions. It referred repeatedly to the political declaration adopted by Warsaw Pact leaders in Prague in January, which proposed the removal of all medium range missiles from Europe, beginning with a "radical reduction".

Yesterday's communique emphasized the need for "the continuation of direct and extensive dialogue at all levels". It repeated the offer made by Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, in December to balance Soviet missiles against the British and French nuclear deterrents.

World arms spending up by 27 pc over decade

From Our Correspondent, Washington

World military spending increased between 1971 and 1980 by 27 per cent to \$595,000m (£400,000m), with the Soviet Union leading both in spending on arms and weapons exports, according to an American report.

The report, entitled *World Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers* issued by the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (Acda), and covering 145 countries, said that in 1980 Moscow spent about \$188,000m on its military, while the United States spent about \$131,000m.

Meanwhile the Soviet Union exported arms worth about \$9,000m compared with America's \$7,000m.

All the figures are in 1979 constant US dollars to show real expenditure, free from the impact of inflation.

The 129-page report, the fourteenth in a series, was released as the Reagan Administration was fighting a tough battle with Congress which is trying to cut down the President's controversial five-year defence programme.

He wants to spend about \$2,000 billion over the next five years to modernize American conventional and nuclear forces

in the face of the growing Soviet military power.

The report said that the 10 countries leading in military spending during 1980 were the Soviet Union, the United States, China, West Germany, France, Britain, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Poland and Italy, in that order.

Nato and Warsaw Pact members accounted for 75.4 per cent of world military spending in 1980, down from 79.7 per cent in 1971.

Europe which accounted for 55.1 per cent of the total continued to have the largest concentration of military forces and equipment in the world.

Although Nato was ahead of the Warsaw Pact in spending terms the Soviet Union spent about \$58,000m more than the United States.

In terms of gross national product Soviet military spending accounted for 14.6 per cent while that of the United States was about 5.5 per cent.

Other highlights of the report include:

During 1976-80 the 10 biggest arms suppliers were the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Britain, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.



Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Socialist Party leader (right), talks with Señor Andrés Pérez, of Venezuela, Señor Anselmo Sule, of Chile, and Señor Daniel Oduber, of Costa Rica, at the Socialist International meeting in Montecarlo, Portugal, yesterday.

Pentecostals to stay inside US embassy

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The six Pentecostals still marooned in the United States Embassy in Moscow said yesterday that despite Moscow's decision to allow Lydia Vashchenko to emigrate, they would not leave the embassy compound until they knew that other members of their families still in Siberia were safely out of the country.

In the two cramped and stuffy basement rooms, which have been the home of the dissidents since they sought refuge in the embassy nearly five years ago, the atmosphere was a mixture of quiet hope and profound suspicion.

The "Siberian seven" who rushed past guards into the embassy in June 1978 became six in January last year, when Miss Vashchenko was allowed to return home to Siberia after falling ill during protest hunger strike. This week she was suddenly given permission to emigrate, and on Wednesday

left for Vienna on her way to Israel.

Her mother, father and two sisters remain inside the embassy, with Mrs Mariya Chnykhalov and her son Timofei in the adjoining room.

Miss Vashchenko's sister Lyuba, who has become a spokesman for the family, said yesterday they were hopeful but suspicious. Lydia's release had been a good sign. But there had been many tricks and false promises by the Soviet authorities that "we don't know what to expect next".

"It's difficult to believe assurances - either from the Americans or from the Russians - when we have been deceived so many times," Lyuba said.

Upstairs in the embassy a US spokesman said the case of Lydia Vashchenko should not necessarily be seen as a change of heart on the part of the Russians.

Pope's visit to Poland creates dilemma for Solidarity leaders

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

One of the abiding mysteries in Poland is the rash of sporadic pro-Solidarity demonstrations after church services.

Easter passed quietly, but there is a serious prospect acknowledged by both the Government and the Solidarity underground, of unrest early next month.

The question underpinning these demonstrations is the subject of a propaganda tango between the authorities and Solidarity: Is somebody trying to sabotage the planned visit of the Pope to Poland in June?

The Government says it welcomes the Pope and is stepping up a detailed itinerary that meets most of the Church's main demands. But it has also made clear that the visit could be threatened by Solidarity-inspired mass unrest.

At the same time the official press has loudly deplored the organizing of demonstrations after church services and blamed them on extremists, helped by American-financed Western radio stations which beam into Poland.

Solidarity sympathizers, on the other hand, talk darkly of "provocation" - that is the planting of agents provocateurs to stir up trouble deliberately and the frequent presence of water cannon and riot police even before church services begin.

The reasoning of the underground - set out in their clandestine bulletins - is that there is a group of hardliners in the Polish Communist Party or in certain ministries who do not want the Pope to come.

Why, say Solidarity activists, if the Government insists on social calm before the papal visit, did General Czeslaw Kiszczak, the Interior Minister, stand up in Parliament and announce that anti-government protests are expected in May - even before the underground called for such protests.

Diplomats have a twofold explanation. Above all, they emphasize, the Government does not want to wreck the visit. The official invitation has been issued and the return of the Pope to his homeland would in some way legitimize the line of the Jaruzelski leadership.

The first aim of the Government appears to be to flush out as many troublemakers as possible in May and keep them under lock and key for the Pope's visit. Moscow has obviously approved the idea of the Pope coming, but has underlined that there must be no risk to public order.

The second aim is to edge the Catholic church leadership into a neutral position, using the carrot of the papal visit. The church can be persuaded to urge calm and conciliation over the

next few months, to distance itself from all the Solidarity demands - apart from the call for an amnesty for political prisoners.

The church, however, is too clever to be boxed into a corner. It, too, can use the prospect of the Pope's visit to urge concessions on the Government.

Mr Lech Walesa symbolizes that dilemma. Nowadays he commutes between the trials of his friends and former union colleagues - he says a courtroom is the only place where the union can be discussed openly - and he is becoming increasingly radical in his statements. The impending trial of his former advisers in the dissident KOR group will be particularly crucial in this respect.

At the same time, however, he wants the Pope to come, remembers the energy his last visit released in 1979.

The underground leadership of Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski shares the dilemma. It wants a show of strength, yet it does not want to give the Government an excuse to cancel the Pope's visit.

Edmund Baluka, a prominent Solidarity activist who had close ties with emigré groups in France goes on trial next week charged with working to subvert Poland's socialist system, an official newspaper said. He will face a military court in Bydgoszcz.

Prince plays the gallant at a royal party

From Gravia Forbes of the Press Association in Perth

A gallant Prince of Wales yesterday kissed his sailor-suited Princess in front of 6,000 people - on the hand.

The little intimacy came at the end of a long, hot afternoon in which the royal couple spent more than an hour in brilliant sunshine meeting guests at a Government House garden party.

The Princess wore an ice-blue silk dress with white braid above the hem, and a sailor collar. Her small blue and white boater was set at a jaunty angle with a veil above her eyes.

The Prince and Princess, who were greeted by cheers and applause as they emerged from Government House, went in opposite directions round a large circle, speaking to anyone who happened to catch their eye.

The Princess looked relaxed and cheerful despite the heat and a long morning which included two walkabouts and a visit to the Commonwealth Hockey Stadium for a children's display.

The Prince's day had started with a dip in the Indian Ocean surrounded by an entourage of nine people and watched by an interested crowd of 250.

News of the Prince's swim on North Cottesloe Beach near Perth soon spread and the public, reporters and photographers were there to watch as he



Many hands: The Princess of Wales reaches into the crowd during a royal walkabout in Perth.

went body surfing - without a beard - for half an hour, but he seemed to enjoy himself despite the lack of privacy.

As he left the water, he said: "I enjoyed it very much, it was tremendous." But the security men could not afford to be so relaxed, for it was on this beach

four years ago that Miss Jane Priest, a model, became an overnight cover-girl after kissing the Prince in the surf. Yesterday police were taking no chances and tried to keep curious onlookers well at bay.

● AUCKLAND: A third of the 300 schools in Auckland have failed to reply to an invitation to see Prince Charles and Princess Diana at Eden Park, the city's biggest sports ground, on April 18, Renter reports.

Mrs Maryann Street, local chairman of the Post-Primary Teachers' Association said that they did not rate viewing the royal couple as a high educational priority. ● A man wearing a Solidarity button tried to stop a cab taking the Princess to visit a hospital, throwing her to one side of the car as the driver swerved. The Princess was not hurt and a man was held by police.

Church against nudes on Greek beaches

From Mario Mediano, Athens

The Greek Orthodox Church has decided to oppose actively the Socialist Government's plan to legalize nudism on secluded beaches to bolster the country's declining tourist industry.

The Holy Synod, the 13-bishop governing body of the Church, decided unanimously on Tuesday that no nudist camps should be permitted.

"Nudism constitutes not just a provocation, but a brutal assault on the good morals of the Greek people," the synod declared.

The national tourist organization reacted stiffly to the synod's decision, and announced that nudist colonies would be set up as long as the local people agreed.

It stated: "Nudists are nature-lovers of a high cultural level and a high income bracket, with morals and love for the ancient Greek spirit. They do not, therefore, pose a threat to Greek traditions."

Swimming and sunbathing in the nude, considered an offence to public morality, is punishable by up to six months imprisonment and/or a fine. On some islands, however, the authorities are inclined to turn a blind eye on some secluded beaches where permissiveness borders on promiscuity - all in

the name of tourism which, because of inflation and pollution, suffered a setback in 1982.

Four years ago, demonstrators led by the local bishops in eastern Peloponnese, drove out a West German nationalist group which had leased a seaside hotel for the summer season.

Earlier this year the Socialist Government, after securing the consent of local mayors and, possibly, bishops, announced its intention to revise the law on public morality in order to encourage the creation of four to five nudist resorts outside inhabited areas.

Mr Nikos Skoulas, secretary-general of the national tourist organization, said care would be taken to keep the camps away from towns and villages out of deference to the local inhabitants. "If anyone claims to be offended we will know he was using binoculars", he said.

But the Holy Synod rejected the assurances given to Archbishop Seraphim, the Greek Primate. It decided to send a three-prlate committee to the Government and the tourist organization to demand that the plans be withdrawn and penal law provisions on public morality be respected.

Tanzanians sacked after sabotage

Dar es Salaam (Reuters and AFP) - Three senior Tanzanian officials have been dismissed for failing to implement government directives in the war against economic saboteurs, Tanzania radio said yesterday.

Mr Timothy Shindika, the Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, was relieved of his duties because he blocked efforts of the regional police commander in rounding up saboteurs, the radio said.

Mr Godfrey Kanfumbula was removed from his post for giving wrong information to Morogoro regional leaders about a racketeer who was hoarding goods worth millions of shillings.

Mr Isak Msuya, Superintendent of Police, who until Wednesday was acting regional police commander, has been removed because he failed to pass on a government directive to the regional commissioner.

Mr Edward Sukone, the Prime Minister, disclosed on Wednesday that people were held for questioning in a crackdown on economic saboteurs and racketeers.

President Nyerere told government and party colleagues on Tuesday that a countrywide swoop on March 25 had recovered goods and money totalling 17m shillings (£1.2m).

"I was shocked when I was taken to a private warehouse a few days ago where I found stored goods and spare parts which make the central government store look like a joke," Dr Nyerere said.

The grants and dismissals were the first shots in a war President Nyerere has declared on the parallel economy which has sprung up in the past five years as agricultural and industrial output has declined.

While state factories have had to halt production for lack of spare parts of basic materials, the black market, where the dollar is worth 50 or 60 Tanzanian shillings compared with 9 shillings at the official rate, is comparatively well supplied.

Extremists in Assam seek arms

Delhi (AFP) - Right-wing extremists in the violence-torn north-east Indian state of Assam are shopping for arms in the Indian region bordering China, Nepal, Burma and Bangladesh, federal intelligence sources said yesterday. There was no immediate confirmation of how successful they had been.

In continuing clashes in the state, in which militants are campaigning against several million immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal, at least 13 people had died in the last two days, with 6,000 others made homeless, other reports said.

Assamese extremists had succeeded in making contact with secessionist elements in the adjoining states of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland and were being helped to shop for arms, the intelligence sources said.

Intelligence agents arrested five right-wing Assamese extremists last week near the state capital of Gauhati and discovered after sustained questioning that they had crossed the state's boundary for arms.

There have been numerous reports of thefts of detonators and gelignite from state-owned road building organizations in the mountainous region, and the agents believed the stolen goods were purchased by right-wing extremists.

Gauhati and several other areas in Assam have been hit by a sudden increase in bomb explosions, which have led federal agents to believe the extremists have succeeded in establishing a supply link.

"However, the situation is yet to become serious. We may succeed in destroying the supply lines", one official, who asked not to be named, said.

Army operations in the region have unearthed Chinese-made automatic rifles and munitions.

Reports today said areas in Assam's Goalpara district have been declared "disturbed", empowering the Army to shoot on sight anyone believed to be engaged in violence, to search and arrest without a warrant, and to demolish any structure that could be a security hazard.

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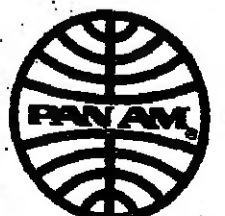
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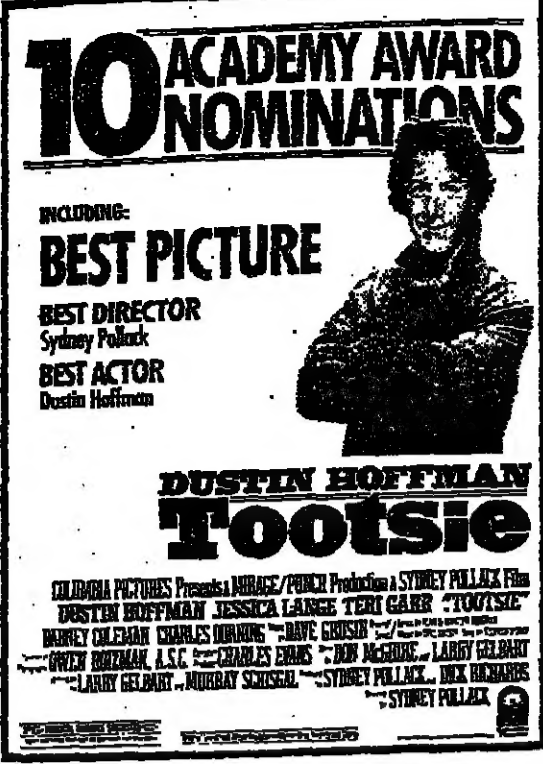
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SPECTRUM

The annual hunt for those 8lb gold statuettes is in full cry. David Hewson and Ivor Davis look behind the scenes at next week's awards



Left: Paul Newman awaits the judgment on his performance in *The Verdict*. Centre: Ben Kingsley contemplates the fate of *Gandhi*. Right: Dustin Hoffman's studio boosts the success of *Tootsie*.

Will hype or humility win the Oscars?

In all his 30-year career, Paul Newman has never been more visible. During the past three months he has spent more time in front of notebooks and cassette recorders, giving interviews to ecstatic journalists, than he would normally allow in a decade.

The results of his endeavours, which can be measured in magazine covers and newspaper column inches, are, it is whispered, on behalf of one object: an Oscar. Five times a nominee, never a winner, Newman smells success this year - and so does his studio, which is participating in the annual Oscar race by putting its considerable muscle behind efforts to promote his performance in *The Verdict* as worthy of the best actor award.

So assiduously has the publicity offensive been mounted that Newman's press agent has been forced to issue a formal denial of allegations that the star is on an "Oscar hunt": no one is fooled into believing that the campaign is aimed at anything but the ceremonial opening of the envelope in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Los Angeles, in the early hours of next Tuesday morning, London time, when Croesus puts on his tuxedo as the movie industry foregathers to celebrate the 55th prizegiving of the Academy Awards.

Ask any film executive lounging around the pool at the Beverly Hills Hotel what he really thinks of the Oscars and he will express the private opinion that the ceremony has little to do with class, talent or quality, and everything to do with old-fashioned Tinseltown razzmatazz and money. And then he will add that he would give an arm and a leg to get just one of those 13½ inch high icons on his office desk.

Much of Hollywood's glitter has tarnished over the years, but the Oscars live on in their glory for a very simple reason: they are a solid gold guarantee of fame and wealth for whoever receives the key awards for best picture, best actor and actress, and best director.

Last year, the British-made *Chariots of Fire* came from nowhere to steal the best picture award, thereby giving the British film industry its greatest filip in years. David Puttnam, the producer of *Chariots*, is still somewhat awed by

the effect the award had on the film's world-wide box-office receipts. With enhanced returns from sales to cable television stations and other outlets, Puttnam believes that *Chariots* gained between \$15m and \$20m from the Oscars. A re-release of the film in Britain after the victory brought in more income than *Chariots* had earned on its first time round the circuit.

If the price of success is phenomenal, the cost of failure is written on a similar scale. Consider *Chariots*' chief opposition for best picture last year, Warren Beatty's *Reds*, an epic of the Russian revolution which cost six times as much to make as Puttnam's film. When *Reds* failed to pick up the top prize, its appearances on the cinema circuit were drastically curtailed and the film turned, in a matter of weeks, from being promoted as a great and lasting American movie into a colossal write-off for its studio.

So the stakes are high in the gamble to win the approval of the 3,400 voting members of the Academy, who decide which names go into the Oscar ceremony envelopes as nominees and

relations men, all of whom have been invited to join. No one fills in an application form. The voting habits of the various caucuses are never released, but it has been generally accepted over the years that the technicians' vote is crucial to the winning of the best picture award. And in the past that vote has been strikingly xenophobic, probably on the strictly practical grounds that lavishing prizes on foreign films does not create work in Hollywood.

Chariots changed that preconception in a way which is likely to smile on this year's British hope, Sir Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*. Puttnam's winning formula entailed the film opening in America just before Christmas, winning good word-of-mouth opinions and peaking around February, when the Academy votes are being cast. While most of his rivals were running over-the-top advertising campaigns in the film world's trade papers, the *Hollywood Reporter* and *Daily Variety*, Puttnam pushed for *Chariots* to be promoted through low-key, "ethical" ads which, by virtue of their very simplicity, put across some of the qualities inherent in the film itself.

While the rest of Hollywood seemed to be pushing the same old film-flam, *Chariots* rode in on a wave of clean-cut positivism, tickled along the way by successes at such Oscar "heats" as the BAFTA awards in Britain. It is a style of campaign which *Gandhi* - produced and financed by Goldcrest, which paid for the original *Chariots* script from Colin Weiland - is copying to the last detail, and will be repeated next year when Puttnam's new movie, *Greystoke*, is pushed for the nominations.

This year, the pursuit of the Oscars will again involve a massive collective investment. Charles Powell, a Hollywood marketing consultant who knows all about spending money to ensure that a particular movie remains front and centre in filmland's consciousness, reckons that between them the studios are disbursing about \$800 for each man and woman in the Academy, making a total approaching \$3m.

It may sound outrageous and unimportant, but Powell says bluntly: "This is not a game. When a film wins an Oscar you can add a minimum of

\$10 million onto the box office take." One top Hollywood agent adds: "If my client wins, I automatically double his asking price for his next movie."

With all this largesse in pursuit of votes, the question presents itself: "Can you buy an Oscar?" Powell admits that spending doesn't hurt, but points out: "If you look at the history of Hollywood, some of the biggest spenders didn't pick up any awards at all." Back in 1961, he recalled, John Wayne pumped a small fortune into promoting his movie *The Alamo*. It received six nominations, but the blatant publicity campaign antagonised so many voters that they turned against him. It won only one award - for sound.

Nowadays, every year, the Academy routinely warns the studios to avoid excessive advertising and every year the warning falls on deaf ears. The spending spree is waged mostly in the trade papers, but the studios also hold nightly screenings of films and pay for their stars to go on cross-country publicity tours.

This year Columbia Pictures, Universal and Twentieth Century Fox have been the big spenders. Columbia's dollars and hopes are riding on *Gandhi*. To start with, the studio, which didn't pay a penny towards the actual \$23m cost of making the picture, spent \$12m to launch and promote it. The film has done spectacularly well for a not-obviously commercial subject and has garnered a record 11 nominations, including best actor for Ben Kingsley, best film and best director.

Columbia, however, is hedging its bets and spending lavishly as well on *Tootsie*. The big money-earner this year (\$70m so far), the film has run off with 10 nominations, including the three major ones: best actor for Dustin Hoffman, best picture and best director for Sydney Pollack.

A stone's throw away, Universal is hoping to grab its share of the golden trophies with its best hopes, Meryl Streep, nominated as best actress for *Sophie's Choice*, and Jessica Lange for *Frances*. Lange has also been nominated as best supporting actress for *Tootsie*, the first double nomination for an individual in many years. Their

stable also includes Jack Lemmon and Sissy Spacek for *Missing* and, of course, the Steven Spielberg blockbuster *ET* for best picture and best director, although *ET* is probably the only film in a long time which has done so well that the award of an Oscar would make very little difference to its financial performance.

To the outsider, it may seem hypocritical of the studio to put its money behind more than one of its contenders. How does Universal justify putting its money on both Streep and Lange for the same prize?

Charles Powell explains: "Even if in their own hearts they knew one actress didn't have a chance, they'd be obliged to spend dollar-for-dollar. It's simply that this is a business of relationships and they wouldn't want to alienate Jessica Lange, for example, by declaring themselves in Streep's camp, even if they thought she had a better chance." So although an Oscar may do more at the box office for *Gandhi* than *Tootsie*, the studio has to play the game even handedly by giving Dustin

Oscar victories not only give a movie a second lease of life, but can boost a star into the \$1m picture bracket. When Lee Marvin won in 1965 for *Cat Ballou* his \$250,000 picture price rocketed to the magic million. Agent John Gaines, who handles Steve Martin and Mary Tyler Moore, says: "If they are currently making a million, you ask for two next time. Somewhere in the middle is what you get."

The stars themselves studiously avoid the impression that they are lobbying on their own behalf. Most, however, do not go as far as George C Scott, who loudly denounced the Oscar system in 1970 for pitting a comedy actor against a dramatic one. Despite his outburst, he won for his lead role in *Patton*.

This year Debra Winger, nominated for best actress in *An Officer and a Gentleman*, told interviewers that she didn't like the film. Instead, she used the opportunity to promote her new film, *Mike's Murder*. "We hope voters will recognize that Debra is a fairly extraordinary actress," says her publicist, with extreme tact.

Charles Powell notes that the studios no longer entertain as lavishly in their push for votes as was once the case. "The emphasis is on screenings, and lots of ads to make sure that every voter at least gets to see the movie," he says.

Not everyone agrees that an Oscar triumph is necessarily comparable to hitting the jackpot. When Rita Moreno got one for her performance in *West Side Story*, she promptly disappeared from Hollywood for seven years; her co-star George Chakiris, also a winner, had to return to a career on the stage. Rod Steiger took a well deserved award for *The Pawnbroker*, but recalls: "I felt like a ball player who'd hit a home run in an empty ballpark." He followed it up with a series of movie disasters.

Nevertheless, the Oscar awards have brought more joy than tears. Henry Fonda died a happy man when, after a lifetime of sterling performances, he won his one and only Oscar for *On Golden Pond* last year. Among their qualities is that no one, winner or loser or bystander, is indifferent to the destinations of those 8lb statuettes.



Much of Hollywood's glitter has tarnished over the years, but the Oscars live on



Victories not only give movies a second lease of life, but boost stars into the \$1m bracket

Hoffman as big a push as Ben Kingsley.

Possibly the reddest faces this year belong to the executives at Columbia who wrestled with the dilemma of pushing the unsuccessful movie version of the \$40 million musical, *Annie*. The film was produced by Ray Stark, a Hollywood powerhouse based at Columbia. The studio spent around \$200,000 in what most observers see as a completely futile attempt to rescue Stark's picture. The film got only two nominations, both for its music.

Breaking the all-time losing streak

Michael Hamlyn sees the British train for the America's Cup off Nassau



Syndicate leader de Savary: free-spending determination

Away from the brilliant turquoise shallows, out where the deep water turns indigo, two huge yachts circle each other angrily, like vast predatory birds. They run head to head in tight turns, tacking and twisting, each striving to take the other's wind, or to gain a positional advantage before the start of a race, one of the many hundreds of races these two boats have run in the past year.

Each boat is 12 metres long, each mast is higher than a house. Their mainmasts dominate the horizon from three miles away. These are the yachts *Lionheart* and *Australia*, both former competitors in the America's Cup and both now used for training the crew for Britain's challenge for the cup this summer. Peter de Savary's Victory syndicate.

De Savary is not everybody's favourite financier, but there is no doubting his patriotic determination to win the cup off its stand in the New York Yacht Club and screw it firmly in the Royal Burnham club house. With his foot-long Havana cigars and his bullet-headed boxer's stance, he gives a fair impression of an ersatz Churchill - but imagine how good it will be for British boating and British tourism if the next set of America's Cup races had to be held off Newport, Isle of Wight instead of Newport, Rhode Island.

No one but the Americans has ever won the cup in its century-long history, but if money can do it, de Savary intends to end that tradition. His free spending and his determination have not pleased the snobbish yachting society around Newport, and the British team has been accused of ungentlemanly conduct in spying on the potential opposition. American observers have in turn been watching the British training this winter.

The team of dedicated young people that de Savary assembled last summer in Rhode Island is wintering in Nassau.

better," said a young crew member from *Pool*, *Dorset*.

The syndicate is building a new boat, despite de Savary's scorn last summer for the Americans, who announced they would build a new defender, now launched, named *Liberty* and in training off California. "It's like having a new Grand Prix car at the start of the racing season," Bateman explained. "It gives you the very latest in race technology."

The builders, Fairey Allday at Hamble, and the designer, Ian Howlett, are incorporating a number of refinements resulting from the summer's experiences in Newport. The syndicate is confident that the new boat will be significantly faster than the two present trial horses.

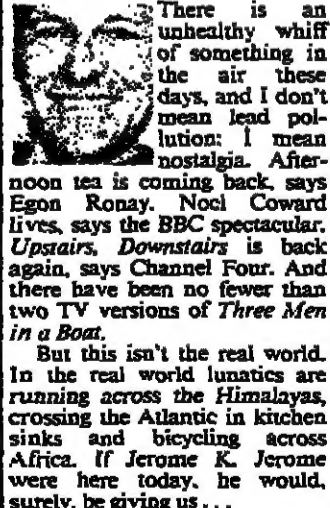
One advantage the Victory team feel they have over the defenders is in sail design. In previous years it has been a critical factor in the Americans' favour, but Peter Bateman, himself a sail-maker, with support of two other sail-makers in the team, feels that they have sufficient expertise, backed up by the team's considerable resources of electronic analysis, to take a lead. He declares that they have already made several significant design advances which will have an effect on all sail design in future.

The new boat was due to leave England this week and to begin sailing off Newport on May 1. The first races to decide the official challenger will be held on June 18. There will be three round-robins and semi-finals among the prospective challengers, and a final which will be held from August 28 to September 8. The cup defence will begin on September 13.

All this is a far cry from the financial plight of the *Lionheart* challenge in 1980. Then the syndicate was unable to afford even to lift the boat out of the water to have her bottom cleaned. Until, that is, Peter de Savary came along and paid up.

The Nanook of North London

MORROVER... Miles Kington



There is an unhealthy whiff of something in the air these days, and I don't mean lead pollution: I mean nostalgia. I mean the coming back, says Egon Ronay, Noel Coward lives, says the BBC spectacular. *Upstairs, Downstairs* is back again, says Channel Four. And there have been no fewer than two TV versions of *Three Men in a Boat*.

But this isn't the real world. In the real world lunatics are running across the Himalayas, crossing the Atlantic in kitchen sinks and bicycling across Africa. If Jerome K. Jerome were here today, he would, surely, be giving us...

This morning we decided to build the igloo. It has been agreed all along that George knew how to build an igloo. To listen to George, you would think he had been building igloos all his life, and that it only took a touch of frost in the suburbs for George to whip up an igloo in his back garden, on the grounds that it was much warmer there than in his house. In Highbury, they call him Nanook of North London.

It was while he was standing like that that the polar bear found him. Harris noticed it first. He said afterwards that he had recognized it from pictures in his *Boy's Book of Exotically Dangerous Animals*. At first he had taken no notice, it being very like his Uncle Harry in the white coat he wears for long walks, but on reflecting that Uncle Harry was dead, he revised his opinion.

"Look out!" said Harris. "Behind you! Uncle Harry!" That's the trouble with Harris. He's very good at spotting an emergency and very bad at suggesting solutions. I remember once when the three of us had gone on a little jaunt across the Alps to prove that Hannibal could have done the crossing in a couple of weeks if only he'd left those blessed elephants behind, and George had been charged by a chamois. "Look out!" Harris had cried. "It's your Auntie Mabel behind you!" By the time he had identified the thing correctly, George was down a crevasse

and, as he said five hours later when he was dragged up more dead than alive, it's no fun being savaged by something you normally clean your windows with.

Anyway, George was equal to the occasion this time. He carefully laid down the ice block, no doubt to avoid creating the impression in the creature's mind that he was a lollipop ready for the taking, and got his saxophone out of his case.

He blew a few notes, which would normally have had the birds falling out of the trees in a dead faint, but which in the

absence of both birds and trees, had only the effect of driving off the bear. With its paws over its ears, as Harris said later, it reminded him of a time - but suffice it to say that it left us sitting on the Arctic ice cap with no igloo, no polar bear, no food and no dogs. The 40 huskies had run away the day before, with Montmorency.

"And no toes," said Harris. "Don't forget the toes." It was true. All our toes had dropped off one night, after George had failed to put up the storm tent. George said it was called frost-bite and quite normal. Harris said it was called claiming to know more about storm tents than was warranted. I hope things are more cheerful tomorrow.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 34)

- ACROSS
1 Leg cover (7)
5 Cliche (3)
8 Be in debt (3)
9 View (7)
10 Accumulate (5)
11 Synecopated music (4)
12 Greek wine (7)
14 Vanishment (13)
16 Mortification (7)
18 Opposed to (4)
21 Claw (5)
22 Relaxation time (7)
23 Nigra tribe (7)
24 Doctrine (5)
25 Disregard (7)
DOWN
1 Row (4)
2 Ending (5)
3 Psychotic illness (13)
4 Revolving part (5)
5 Scrowtail (13)
6 Arab (7)
7 Sick (8)

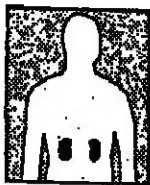
13 Learned (8)	17 Stocking cloth (5)
15 Marine creature (3,4)	19 Habitual (5)
20 Country (4)	

SOLUTION TO No 33
ACROSS: 1 Office 6 Except 8 Hex 9 Ornate 10 Triple 11 Mini 12 Frankish
13 Uptake 15 Indeed 17 Fiddling 20 Into 22 Scarce 23 Outlaw 24 Pav
25 Ascent 26 Normal
DOWN: 2 Fermi 3 Erotica 4 Shuttle 5 Extra 6 Chick 7 Peasie 14 Prince
15 Ingrown 16 Drifter 18 Digne 19 Inept 21 Tiana
The dictionary recommended in the New Collins Concise (Solution to No 34 on Monday)

FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Enter the stone pulverizer



Urinary tract stones affect one in ten people at some time of their lives. Many are passed spontaneously and some, for a variety of medical reasons, are left undisturbed, but in 20 per cent of cases the stones have to be removed surgically. The operation as it is now done, is a major one involving much old-fashioned cutting.

Two new techniques have been introduced which will minimize the upset to the patient so that many of those who would previously have been unfit for surgery and anaesthesia can now be treated.

An important conference on stone surgery is to take place at Centrepoint in London this month. Among those attending will be doctors from the Devonshire Hospital, formerly the Arrazi, who have already ordered a £750,000 German machine which can destroy the stones without surgery. It will be the first machine of its type in this country and the sixth in the world.

One of the methods, known as extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy, has been devised by three Munich doctors, Christian Chaussey, Egbert Schmiedt and Walter Brendel. After the patient has had an epidural spinal anaesthetic he is seated in a bath of water while a generator discharges 500 to 1,500 shockwaves targeted onto the renal stones, which are pulverized. The crushed stones are then passed in the urine. This is successful in 90 per cent of the cases selected for surgery, but is likely to be suitable for only half the patients needing to have their stones removed.

The less expensive of the two methods, pioneered in Germany, has already been introduced into this country at St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Institute of Urology, St Peter's and St Paul's. It involves the passage of an endoscope, a tube incorporating a fibre-optic viewing device, which can give the surgeon both a direct and a televised view of the kidney. With the endoscope can go an ultrasonic pulverizer which can break stones too large to be removed whole. They are reduced to the colour and consistency of mulligatawny soup, and sucked out.

Mr Hugh Whitfield, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, said that about 50 per cent of stones could be removed by this percutaneous route. The procedure, although it sounds simple, requires considerable surgical skill, perhaps more than in the old-fashioned surgery.

The operation, he explained, is done in two stages: first, the kidney is outlined by injecting a dye under local anaesthetic; the needle track is then dilated so that at the second stage, carried out under general anaesthetic, the endoscope can be passed along the track. Young and fit people need spend only four days in hospital and can be back at work within a week.

Batting clever

Jill Hamersley-Parker, twice European table tennis champion and one of the most successful players ever, is now over three months pregnant; she has withdrawn from the team travelling to Tokyo on the advice of her obstetrician.

The late Mr C. W. F. Burnett, a leading influence in the education of midwives after the war, used to teach that all excessive travel in pregnancy was undesirable, but that there was a particular risk in driving long distances in a car as the angle of the backward sloping seat, coupled with the vibrations from the car, produced pelvic congestion occasionally leading to abortion.

He used to suggest that women, particularly in the first three months of pregnancy, should get out of their cars every 40 minutes and go for a short walk to restore their circulation. Train and plane travellers were advised to wander up and down.

Mr Anthony Kenney, Consultant Obstetrician to St Thomas's Hospital, London, said this week that there was very little scientific data on the hazards of travelling, but that its undependability had become part of the folklore of pregnancy. He recommended patients to try to limit any journeys to under two hours and to avoid exercise which excessively shook the body in general and the uterus in particular.

Although hard scientific evidence is limited, doctors working in holiday resorts have noticed an unusually high number of miscarriages on Saturday evenings, possibly caused by a long drive to the sea.

Merciful release

Doctors are expressing surprise at a decision by the Court of Appeal to release Michael Daniel, of Harold Hill, Essex, a diabetic who was sentenced to prison for being one of a gang involved in a savage attack on a young woman. The judges were apparently concerned lest the high carbohydrate diet served in prison shortened his life span.

They obviously did not realize that earlier this year a campaign was launched to persuade diabetic patients that it was more important to find the right dose of insulin, than to reduce carbohydrate intake. When the high-fibre carbohydrate is drastically reduced there is a danger that too high a proportion of the patient's diet will be fat. A high fat diet results in an increase in the incidence of heart disease, diabetic blindness and strokes.

In Third World countries, although the staple food is largely carbohydrate and so dull that the Parkhurst menu in comparison would seem like the Connaught's, the death rate from complications of diabetes is only a fraction of that in London or New York.

Although the traditional prison fare - porridge, beans, lentils and peas - are now recommended foods for diabetics, the experts did concede that a patient might face other problems in maintaining diabetic control in jail and that presumably, they had been taken into consideration by the judges.

Beyond the blues

Mr Gerald Priestland, the former BBC religious affairs broadcaster and now a successful author, recently silenced his fellow diners at a London club with his views on depression. Most people have days of feeling fed-up or sorry for themselves; but to hear an articulate sufferer from true depression made them realize what a difference there was between endogenous depression and the occasional blues. Later Mr Priestland talked to *The Times*.

The difference is important and often overlooked by commentators: endogenous depression is not directly related to events; although it can be triggered by circumstances, most authorities agree that it is an inherited biochemical abnormality. Sufferers from acute attacks usually respond to medical treatment, and psychotherapy can help in reducing the number of attacks.

Teaching manuals recount the symptoms of irritability, insomnia, characteristic early morning waking, loss of enthusiasm for work and domestic life, the improvement in mood as the day advances, loss of libido and lack of appetite; but Mr Priestland also talked vividly of other symptoms frequently outlined by patients but rarely found in the text books.

He described the sense that the future could not possibly hold any enjoyment, that any future was quite unimaginable. The sense of guilt though the cause may not be known, and the feeling that one's guilt was bound to be discovered, with inevitable retribution for crimes unwittingly committed.

Mr Priestland, has learnt over the years to avoid potential triggers which might bring on his depression; not to get over-tired, not to allow his day to be over-filled so that he is chased by inadequate time, and not to meet other depressives whose mood is infectious.

Dr Thomas Stuttard

Medical Correspondent

Life with a revolutionary Redgrave

When Deirdre Hamilton-Hill married Corin Redgrave she

felt like an extra in a film, starring Vanessa - but it was politics which finally broke their marriage.

Clare Colvin reports.

Deirdre Redgrave's flat in Kensington is eloquent proof that she is financially hard pressed. The threadbare carpet is worn, the dining chairs, subjected to assaults from cats, are in urgent need of reupholstering. The place has the air of a one-parent family at bay.

Deirdre wears her poverty proudly. It is the first thing you hear about when you arrive. She is shading with rage, she says, at the bureaucratic idiots who have refused her 15-year-old son a national Giro account. Not only that, but they had by-passed her letter and had written directly to him. She had made an angry phone call to a Giro bureaucrat and nothing would satisfy her but a grovel from the top. It being a Friday afternoon, not surprisingly, no grovel was forthcoming.

Lack of money is the explanation she gives for writing an autobiography which takes apart her marriage to Corin Redgrave and casts a slightly jaundiced eye on having been part of that legendary family.

Lady Redgrave, she says, is not unhappy now that she has read the book, but Corin and his sister Vanessa are furious. She writes of how her 14-year marriage ended, not for the usual reasons that marriages end, but because of politics. Her husband allowed the Workers' Revolutionary Party to take over his life and, as far as the WRP was concerned, Deirdre was a bourgeois revisionist.

Any qualms she might have had about writing the inside story of her marriage were ended three years ago, by a solicitor's letter. Her solicitor had applied for maintenance, and Corin's solicitor had replied that not only was his client unable to make an offer of maintenance for his children, but Deirdre was to supply particulars of her own means "as a result of which it may be that we shall advise our client to apply for maintenance against your client". The threat was never carried out, but it ended any remaining feeling of loyalty to her ex-husband.

"I was devastated. I burst into tears and went to bed and pulled the sheet over my head, and it ripped. It was then I decided I had to find a new career - I had been designing clothes for TV commercials but the TV strike had put an end to that. I thought of my bottom drawer stuffed with unfinished novels, and I realized I had got a perfect story here - a marriage that went wrong for very odd reasons."

She teamed up with a journalist friend, Danas Brook, who lived in the same block of flats and they departed for an isolated cottage with a couple of typewriters. Six weeks later they had completed the book *To Be a Redgrave* (Robson Books £7.95). It traces the relationship

from its romantic beginnings in 1962, when Deirdre was 22, to its disintegration in left-wing political indoctrination.

Marriage to a Workers' Revolutionary Party member sounds a harrowing business. Their whole style of living changed. Pictures disappeared from the sitting room walls to be replaced by posters of Trotsky and Lenin. Cooking with wine was condemned as bourgeois, and boeuf bourguignon gave way to Lancashire hotpot. Their flat became a meeting place for WRP workers who treated Corin's wife and children with total lack of regard. One evening Deirdre was watching a play on television when three men in anoraks stomped in, switched off the set, and carried on their political discussion without appearing to notice she was there. When WRP people talked to her, it was only with the object of pressurizing her into joining the party. At the height of Corin's activities their telephone was tapped.

How did Corin Redgrave, whose acting career looked set to take off in the same way as his sister Vanessa's, come to devote all his energy to a minor political party to the detriment of both marriage and career? He had been searching for a cause for some time, she says. There had been flirtations with Black Power, in which one of their friends, Gail Benson, was fatally involved. One evening Corin attended a WRP meeting at which its founder, Gerry Healey, spoke and he was hooked.

"Corin was attracted by power. He actually believed that the Workers' Revolutionary Party was going to run England. It was he who got Vanessa involved, rather than the other way round. I went to party meetings, listened to what was said, read Marx, did my homework. I agreed with everything, but I did not want to be manipulated. I felt that the techniques used by the WRP to gain recruits were similar to those used by the Black Power people who had murdered Gail. It was the automatic way they treated each other that put me off. I felt we were being invaded by an alien group of people who were trying to take my identity away."

It was far from the glamorous world in which she and Corin began their relationship. They were introduced in 1962 by a friend, Jonathan Benson, later husband of Gail, after Corin had played Lyndane in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Royal Court. After dinner he took them back to the Redgraves' Knightsbridge flat for a brandy. He played a romantic number from *Gyps and Dolls* on the piano, and Deirdre fell in love.

The convent-educated daughter of



Wearing her poverty proudly: Deirdre Redgrave at home in Kensington

a naval family - Deirdre suddenly found herself part of a famous theatrical family, whose friends included Noel Coward, Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, Ralph Richardson and Peggy Ashcroft. It was exciting, but not necessarily good for the ego.

"At my wedding I felt like an extra in a movie, and Vanessa was undoubtedly the star, without even trying to be. Very famous people, like very rich people, are not aware of things being any other way. It seems perfectly natural that photographers should be snapping away wherever they go."

She did her best to look the part of a star when she dressed up for glamorous premieres, but she had the feeling that it did not really justify her membership in this elevated circle. Her in-laws were charming and kind to her, but under the appearance of an affectionate, close-knit family, there was a curious remoteness. Corin saw so little of his father that they communicated by notes. Lady Redgrave absentmindedly allowed her daughter-in-law to address her by her title for three

years. Deirdre, like the youngest Redgrave, Lynn, felt overawed by big Vanessa with her forthright views. At the centre of the family was Sir Michael, who was frequently away from home.

"The Redgraves played the closest, theatrical family at home as well as they played Ibsen and Shakespeare on stage. Their world was made up of lines and gestures; they always seemed loving, kind and friendly, yet it was like a mirage."

But at the time Deirdre was coming to her decision to leave Corin, it was to her mother-in-law she turned. Lady Redgrave, also the actress Rachel Kempson, had abandoned her career for several crucial years in her youth, and she encouraged Deirdre to search for her own identity rather than continue with her unhappy marriage.

"She explained to me how in many ways the Redgraves were very selfish or self-motivated people. She knew that ruthless streak in all of them, because she had lived through it, too. She told me that we had both married into a family of extremely brilliant people who would always

put themselves or their causes first, but that I was still young enough to make my own life. She had decided years ago to endure it, and she felt on balance it had been worth it, but I knew I could not."

Corin now lives with the actress Kika Markham, who introduced him to the Workers' Revolutionary Party, and they have a child. He works full time for the WRP, lecturing and distributing party newspapers. Since his involvement with the radical left, his acting career has suffered.

Deirdre and their two children, Gemma, 18, and Luke, 15, live in the former matrimonial home, the shabby flat in the Kensington block once inhabited by the Princess of Wales. Like her royal ex-neighbour, Deirdre is planning to move, but to a bedsitter. She has put the flat on the market to pay off some large bills and is already three-quarters of the way through another book, which she hopes will bring in some more cash. It is called *How to survive After Thirty-Five*, and she says she is writing it with the benefit of experience.



The wedding, 1962: bride and groom, stage left, with Sir Michael and Lady Redgrave and Vanessa. Right: Corin and Vanessa at a WRP conference, 1979.



TALKBACK

Looking for work

From Peter Davidson, *The Kiln Barn*, Pluckley, Kent. I was profoundly irritated by Tessa Green's article of mawkish self pity (First Person, March 25). What is the use of higher education if it produces someone so proud - and fifty years of experience, which she acknowledges to be special, if one cannot discover the simple truth coined by that semi-literate Henry Ford: "Work lies all around us; it only becomes a job when somebody else gives us it to do?"

It is not a job which Ms Green wants, but work with other people. Disadvantaged groups of all types are keen to give us problems to solve, deadlines to meet and the exhaustion which comes from a hard day's work.

The ill-educated of limited experience can be expected to be put about by losing a job but that is not Ms Green's lot. Perhaps her real concern is the loss of privilege which high income brings. If such is the case, society's investment in her case, society's investment in her education and experience to set about creating work for herself and jobs for the less well-educated and privileged.

The idea that anybody owes us a living is nonsensical but never more so when it is implied by those who, taking

the advantages which society endows, regard their privilege as a right.

We have received a number of offers of employment for Tessa Green since we published her article and we will forward them to her.

Tinnitus relief

From Mrs Doreen Darby, 174 Surrenden Road, Brighton. I am grateful to you for giving such generous space to my comments on relaxation for the relief of tinnitus (Talkback, Feb. 25). The response from your readers has been staggering. Within two weeks more than 400 had written to me and letters are still arriving.

Few mentioned loss of hearing, but nearly all wrote of the fluctuation in the volume of their head noises and commented that, having read of my own greatly increased tinnitus during a severe nervous illness, they recognized that the noise became far more noticeable and, in some cases, almost intolerable, when they were fatigued, worried or afraid.

Because tinnitus actually causes these states, it is not surprising that the sufferer finds himself on a treadmill. I am therefore more than ever convinced of the close connection between stress and tinnitus. Even if the condition is linked with deafness, as in my own case, it seems that there can still be fluctuations and that stress will make the noises louder,

although they may have been present for years.

Right to choose

From Mrs M. Robbins, Bourton House, Bishops Canning, Dorset, Wiltshire.

Please tell Mrs Simcock (Talkback March 18), and others in a similar position that they have an alternative. Most local authorities have very limited budgets for places in voluntary homes for mentally handicapped adults, but provided that they have a refusal to sponsor in writing from the Director of Social Services, they can still place privately.

The DHSS will regard Mrs Simcock's daughter as an adult in her own right, and will not take her parents' income into account in awarding benefits. She will therefore be eligible for what is known as the enhanced lodging rate, which can now come near to the full fees of an organization such as CARE. New regulations shortly to be introduced will improve these rates. She will be able to retain both attendance and mobility allowances, if eligible, and any necessary "top up" by her parents, perhaps in trust form, will be disregarded.

Perhaps not enough local authorities inform parents of this means of exercising their right to choose an alternative to their own residential accommodation. It also applies to the elderly, and to adults with other handicaps, whose families may have similar anxieties.

COMMENT

Scandal of the slum landlords

Many councillors have expressed concern for the homeless on the hustings, but ignore them in reality. Local authorities of all parties have turned Nelson's eye and allowed the homeless to live in squalid, unsafe, overcrowded insanitary rip-off joints. Simultaneously, landlords have made riches from the DHSS out of the plight of the most vulnerable in our society.

Recently, a private members' Bill beat hostile government whips with a majority of 100 to nil, designed to compel local authorities to demand that landlords set minimum standards of safety and decency in their accommodation. Local authorities have the authority to do this at the moment but either through torpor or ignorance have failed to apply the law.

If the Bill is not set on by the Government, or beaten by a June election, it will rectify many of the loopholes in our crazy housing legislation which presently allows both idle landlords and authorities to do nothing. Laws are meant to be clear, concise and obeyed; much housing legislation is confused, imprecise and ignored. This brings the law into disrepute. Shameful conditions are not confined to the inner cities.

Recently in Oxford, a racket was exposed involving squalid accommodation and a gross waste of DHSS money.

In what the Labour-controlled Oxford City Council optimistically called "a guest house" in Ilfield Road, Oxford, an alcoholic can expect a room with three others and a caterer's bean can as a private. Eleven adults and six children share six rooms. This house is still operating today, and the landlord's annual income is likely to be about £150,000 per annum, payable by the DHSS. It is estimated that Oxford DHSS alone is paying nearly £400,000 a year to private landlords to house the homeless.

The council admitted that some of the houses used in multiple occupation had been operating without rudimentary planning permission since 1965. Officers advising the councillors appeared not to understand the existing powers available to deal with the city's homeless. Officers seemed not to appreciate that grants of up to 75 per cent are presently available from the Government for renovations, or the council could undertake the work and send landlords the bill.

In Oxford's case, the story is that of confusion, complacency, bureaucratic bungling, no initiative and no political will. Recently the authority asserted that "present policies are considered to be adequate and the real problem is that of staffing".

Charities for the homeless say that the conditions obtaining in Oxford are typical elsewhere.

This Bill obliges landlords to attend to fire safety. Presently lives are at risk and many have already been lost. Recently five people died in Clacton and 10 people died in an overcrowded Kilburn hostel. In 1981 eight people died in a fire in Notting Hill. In all cases the fire precautions were inadequate.

The Government opposes the Bill because of shortage of money. The problem is colossal. There are 139,000 houses in multiple occupation in England providing accommodation for 300,000 people and 85 per cent require urgent attention.

The Government should reconsider. Social security is providing slum landlords with millions enabling them to provide destitute with dirty beds in overcrowded hovels. It is scandalous that these funds are not better deployed.

Further, Michael Heseltine, when Secretary of State for the Environment, blamed the local authorities for underspending on their capital programmes and implored them to spend on capital projects.

The Government should consider that the Bill might improve dreadful housing conditions, save lives, and even provide vital jobs in the construction industry.

Tom Benyon

The author is Conservative MP for Abingdon.

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مكتبة الأمل

THE TIMES DIARY

Paper chase

The *Guardian* has just invaded Moscow. Lacking a correspondent in the Soviet capital, the paper decided to send 14 specialists there for a week. Chaos ensued. While visiting journalists are usually given access in high places, to the annoyance of resident hacks, the *Guardian* team were treated to the Russian run-around. The education correspondent was given an appointment at the Ministry of Culture, where they said education was nothing to do with them. Jill Tweedie told the Russians she was interested in women's affairs. Her programme for the week was one visit to a kindergarten. The local government correspondent was also allowed only one appointment, with the deputy mayor of Moscow who, he was told, could be expected to answer questions about everything from housing to sewerage.

No one loses them all, though. Polly Toynbee asked for an interpreter at a local court, and was eventually given an English-speaking Russian who turned out to be a dissident recently on hunger strike to join his wife in America. Toynbee spent her time taking down his story, and ignored the court proceedings.

Slow but Shaw

Michael Holroyd has been working on the biography of George Bernard Shaw since 1976. It is not quite true, he says, that Shaw wrote more in a day than he can manage to read, but if the letters alone were published "they would probably fill 30 volumes of 1,000 pages". Shaw wrote about 10 letters for every day of his life (ending a 50-page with apologies for writing in haste) and scrawled addenda over the pre-printed cards he held ready to send to correspondents on a variety of subjects.

When it comes, Holroyd says, the biography will be "a miracle of comprehension. It took Shaw 90 years to live his life. I will take less than 10 years to write it, and the reader less than a month to read it". In face of this mammoth effort, I blush to report what the late Rebecca West says about Holroyd in an interview to be broadcast on Radio 3 tonight. It is: "I do not know why people read Michael Holroyd's biographies. They are all as dull as ditchwater." Oh dear.

Down to earth

Just in case any loyal British Airways employees are getting out the red carpet, I have to warn them that the BA chairman, Sir John King, and his board of directors are not really going to drop in on Sunday. The confusion arises because a card sent to all BA staff and pensioners says that Sir John and the board "invite you to a private viewing of a short film to be screened at your home on Sunday 10th April 1983 on ITV at approximately 12.52 pm. Dress optional". BA headquarters have been inundated with calls from people saying they cannot possibly entertain Sir John and the board at that time. "The idea was only to encourage our people to watch the first screening of our new *Saatchi and Saatchi* commercials", the BA press office explains limply.

Home cooking

Whenever I advertise the culinary creations of foreign chefs it is important to remember there is stiff competition at home, too. To celebrate National Eating Out Week, I pass on the following. From impoverished Scotland, Peter Barlow reports the Stag Hotel, Lochgilphead, offers a Steak au Poivre. John Elliott found the best of Buckingham, pub in Villiers Street, SW1, listing Sweet and Sour Pork, while David Cargill tells me that the Blue Bear at Maldon, serves Codpiece and Chips. Bon appetit!

Long life

I have another story about Caspar Weinberger's adventures. Czech Katharine Hepburn to cap that, how the actress chased him out of the shower (Diary, April 4). The future American defence secretary offered his palm to be read by Katharine Hepburn's mother. The lady held it, gazed long and cast it down with a dismal groan. "Good heavens", cried Weinberger, "what's wrong?" "It's your life line", she said to his horror, "too long".

Ayer on hair

Britain's bestselling philosopher loses wisdom better than publicity. Sir Alfred Ayer's third marriage, on Tuesday, to Vanessa Lawson, former wife of the energy secretary, Nigel Lawson, was a low-key affair. To emphasise that this was no society wedding the couple chose as best man a punk rocker from Glasgow called Steven, leader of the rock band Language. Steven was specially asked not to comb his hair for the ceremony.

Winnie the Pooh, whose earlier descents from honey-bearing trees were made by punctured balloons, can now claim to be world champion parachuting teddy bear. With his own chute 3 feet across, operated by a deflated attached to a 23-year-old Pooh 14 inches tall and weighing 1½ pounds fully kitted dropped 3,800 feet recently in Florida. It was the idea of Simon Torrens, owner of the One Sky kite shop in Stoke Newington, who admits the claim for a record bear jump may be contentious as "he was most definitely pushed."

PHS



George Walden was a young diplomat at the centre of the crisis when Britain expelled 105 Soviet diplomats in 1971. Last month he left the top planning job at the Foreign Office for politics and is free for the first time to comment on the lessons of the last 12 years

Let's stop this spy sickness

When Britain expelled 105 Soviet officials in 1971, we said we were doing it to improve Anglo-Soviet relations. Moscow found this hard to swallow; but curiously enough, we meant it.

The Russians have a problem about spying — they don't know when to stop. There are three main reasons for this: their historical preoccupation with secrecy and security; the clandestine communist tradition; and the bureaucratic inertia of the Soviet system; and — until recently — the complacency and tolerance of the West.

The Russian giant, despite its size, has always been of a nervous disposition. The KGB has a host of worthy (if that is the word) ancestors. In the nineteenth century, the Tsars' domestic security needs fed the Russian appetite for intelligence-gathering abroad. Armies of agents were needed to track spies and revolutionaries through the capitals of the liberal West. Leninist conspiratorial methods, and more than 60 years of communism have intensified this antique obsession. Today, the "needs" of the KGB are presumably still growing. The task of repression at home is not getting any easier, despite more sophisticated (though no less ruthless) methods. The need to monitor the activities of Soviet émigrés has also grown, one imagines, with the outflow of dissidents and Jews.

And then there is Soviet technological insecurity. As the Soviet economy flags, the pressures to keep abreast of the West by all available means increase, especially in defence. Whatever anyone says there is a world of difference between the average Western military attaché and his Soviet counterpart in the GRU, who is trained to recruit and run agents.

Finally, and perhaps, most regrettably, there is little sign that the paranoia which has characterized Soviet diplomacy for so long, and which motivates many of their offensive and defensive intelligence operations, is subsiding. Its main roots lie in the long-term weaknesses of the Soviet state and system themselves. The Soviet government, like all governments, has legitimate national security interests, and it would be wrong not to take full account of the effects of two world wars on the Russian psyche. But it is

increasingly difficult to disentangle these interests from domestic insecurity and crusading communism.

All this perverts to a lamentable degree the work of Soviet diplomatic missions abroad. The simplest functions, for example the dissemination of the official Soviet view, or the routine tasks of diplomatic persuasion, are often approached, covertly, and performed by intelligence agents rather than diplomats. This reluctance to do anything straightforwardly is another aspect of insecurity. It is, incidentally, well known that many of the most able Russians are attracted into the intelligence services, in preference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is a pity for them, and for East-West relations, that their talents are not given a nobler outlet.

It helps to understand Soviet motivations. But in this case to understand should not be to forgive. Britain's over-indulgent attitude to Soviet espionage in this country during the 1960s (a time when Harold Wilson aspired to a role on the East-West stage) led directly to the crisis of 1971. In the excitement of the time, the British press failed to underline sufficiently that these expulsions were as much a manifestation of national will as a precautionary security measure.

The Russians attach both practical and symbolic importance to intelligence matters. If they can succeed in bullying or cajoling us into tacitly accepting these activities on our soil, they will have achieved an important psychological step towards what is still the central Soviet policy aim in Europe: Finlandization. Moscow rightly sees this whole area as an accurate barometer of the West's will to resist, and we should see it primarily, though not solely, in the same terms.

To advise the Queen (as was done in 1969) to pardon a high grade professional spy, Kroger, in exchange for a young university lecturer guilty of some minor misdemeanour but subjected to harsh and cynical pressures by the KGB while in captivity, is to show the Russians that you attach greater importance to "maintaining good relations" with them than to principle and to national self respect. And, in the long run, you cannot buy good relations on these terms. The Soviet "victory" in the Brooke case was short-lived. The



Spies sent back to the cold: top, some of the Soviet officials expelled by Britain in 1971; below, Russians expelled by France this week waiting for a special flight to Moscow

deep resentment over this humiliating episode helped to set the atmosphere for the 1971 expulsions.

The firmness of the recent French action should also be seen primarily as a manifestation of the French national resolve to withstand insidious Soviet pressure in this sensitive area of sovereignty. I do not believe for a moment that Paris wants to sour the East-West atmosphere, any more than we did in 1971. The real lesson for us both is that such dramatic and diplomatically disruptive action would not be needed if western governments were more consistently firm. Britain's action in 1971 has not solved the problem: there can be no ultimate solution while East and West live in such different societies. But it brought a malignant area of our relations with Moscow under firm political control.

Governments of both parties have continued to operate the stringent ceilings laid down at that time, and the important "non-replacement" principle for those expelled. That Anglo-Soviet relations have not in fact improved as a result, has more to do with other factors (and most recently, Afghanistan) than with this overdue act of surgery.

Maybe it is still necessary (though I hope not) to nail the pseudo-sophisticated argument on "everybody knows that everybody does it". There can be no comparison between intelligence agencies operating from within closed societies against open societies and vice versa.

But we ourselves should be careful to keep it all in proportion. Soviet espionage about espionage can be infectious. It is a debilitating disease, not least for normal diplomatic intercourse. It is also, of course, a highly emotive area: I myself confess to a wave of nausea at the mention of the name of Blunt, whose defenders in the art historical world should remember that he was still on Stalin's blacklist at the height of the Zhdanov cultural purge. The academic atmosphere for his his-

torian colleagues in Moscow at the time must have been a trifle less agreeable than that enjoyed by Blunt at the Courtauld Institute in London. (I once devised an imaginary punishment for Blunt: to spend his last days cataloguing a vast collection of socialist realist art in a remote Soviet province).

But we should keep Blunt and all the others in perspective, too. In its morbid fixation with these contemptible relics of the 1930s, as they die off one by one in well-deserved disgrace, the British press has failed to note that the tide of history is bringing an increasing number of important Soviet defectors, many from the KGB itself, to the West (which I suppose will do little to help Moscow's neurosis).

The prime western purpose, here, as elsewhere, must be to protect western interests. We must also try to persuade the Russians over the years to put the emphasis back where it belongs: on a civilized political dialogue. We must get them to understand that in military security as in the intelligence field, enough is enough. Manic over-insurance will not lead to a more secure or stable world, for them or for us.

Only two months ago, before I left the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for politics, I was in Moscow talking to my opposite numbers in the Soviet foreign ministry — hard men, but highly intelligent and unfailingly courteous. We did not agree on much, but the discussion was civil, and worthwhile.

More such exchanges, and fewer rows about spies, might be good for us all. The solution is in Moscow's hands. I even have a suspicion that some Soviet diplomats might agree with me.

The author, former head of the policy planning department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for the new constituency of Buckingham. In 1971 he worked on the Foreign Office's Anglo-Soviet desk.

David Watt

Why we need to keep the Bomb

Would the world be a better and safer place without nuclear weapons? The Easter marchers obviously think so and it seems that President Reagan does, as well. In his "Star Wars" television address on March 23, he did not, it is true, go quite to the lengths of trying to abolish the bomb overnight, but he did hold out the prospect of making nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete" by the expedient of inventing an impenetrable defence against them and thus "paralyzing the way for arms control measures to eliminate the weapons themselves".

On the face of it, the US Government is now officially committed, therefore, to sharing at least one axiom with the peace movement: the fewer nuclear bombs there are lying around, the less likely they are to be used; the most desirable state of affairs is one in which there are no nuclear weapons at all.

It is hard to argue with such a proposition these days without being instantly denounced as a war monger and fascist beast; but still, I must say that in the form I have just stated it (which is the form in which it is usually heard) the idea is sentimental, simplistic and dangerous.

"Why?" you may ask. "After all, you are always writing that nuclear weapons are extremely expensive and terribly destructive and both the US and the Soviet Union have far more of them than is necessary. You obviously agree that we should negotiate arms control agreements in order to save resources, and to limit disaster if war actually breaks out, and to unwind the dangerous psychological tensions and illusions that a competitive arms race creates. What is wrong, then, with looking forward hopefully to a day when these negotiations have been so successful that nuclear weapons have been abolished — or, to put it in Mr Reagan's way, to a day when the definitive answer has been found to them?"

God knows there is no great mystery about the answer after 40 years of argument on this subject, but its elements are so basic that they are almost too obvious to state. First of all, nuclear weapons, though unimaginably terrible, are still weapons; that is, they have been called into existence because men wish to advance their interests and to defend themselves and will always seek the most effective way of doing these things, including the use of force.

If, by some magic wand, we could "disinvent" nuclear weapons, we should not be able to prevent great powers attempting to further or defend their interests, either through the development of even more terrible weapons or perhaps by threats of so-called conventional war (which is now likely to be so much more destructive than the Second World War that it scarcely deserves the title "conventional").

What will restrain the actual use of force in these circumstances? A new world order, perhaps? Yes, a juster world and new international institutions with greater powers might help; but can one realistically see the Soviet and American governments allowing their freedom to be circumscribed by paper treaties or international bodies in a really serious conflict of interests?

What about moral restraint, then? Again, yes — but only up to a point. Morality has certainly been an important element in preventing the atom from being used as a weapon when they could have done so with impunity in the late 1940s and 1950s. Even later — in Vietnam, when other considerations of prudence entered in — the ethical factor prevented the nuclear bombing of Hanoi and indeed ultimately caused

the collapse of the US position.

The trouble is that we cannot be certain that the Russians would display similar squeamishness if there were no western nuclear weapons, or if they managed to solve the problem of shooting down American rockets with certainty before the Americans solved the problem of shooting down Soviet ones. In conventional situations when there has been no external constraint, such as Afghanistan or Eastern Europe, Soviet behaviour has been brutal.

This does not leave much to rely on except some form of deterrence. Four thousand years of experience show that the possession of a large conventional army, though certainly a help, is not always protection against aggressive powers, because the risks associated with losing a conventional war often seem less, at the outset, than the prospective gains of winning it. The vital question is whether nuclear deterrence is likely to do any better.

On this point, all we can say is that it has done remarkably well so far. There has been no nuclear war since 1945 and what is more this success has spilled over into the conventional field. The superpowers have been so afraid of the possibility that conventional confrontation would escalate to the nuclear level that they have so far shied away from situations that entail Russian and American troops fighting each other on the ground. The chances of this period of relative peace to have lasted so long if nuclear weapons had not been invented are slim.

Of course, there is a counter objection at this point and it is that the consequences of a failure of nuclear deterrence are so frightful that they outweigh the increased chances of nuclear or even conventional peace. An honest proponent of this line might say: "I would rather accept a high risk of a world war than an even infinitesimal risk of a nuclear holocaust." This is a matter of taste, and all I can say is that I don't agree.

Nor is it easy to see why the sheer numbers of nuclear weapons in the armoury of each side make any difference to this part of the argument. A balanced reduction of numbers is a good thing for all sorts of reasons but it doesn't make the weapons any less likely to be used — until, that is, there are no nuclear weapons at all.

If this is right, President Reagan's vision of an infallible anti-ballistic missile system is an appalling one. It separates the United States from her allies, of course, because it raises the possibility of a war in Europe from which the Americans could stand aloof. More generally, though, the perfect ABM would be extremely destabilising. If one superpower possessed it and the other did not (a situation which in any case could not last more than a year or two) then one superpower would have the whip hand — which is all right if it's us, not so good if it's them. On the other hand, if both superpowers lose the capacity to destroy each other, they are back to the 1930s and an era in which regional conflict forever threatens to escalate into conventional war on global levels — which may seem "tolerable" because political leaders compare it in their minds with a nuclear Armageddon.

Very few things in this world are wholly bad, and fear is not one of them. In 40 years fear of nuclear weapons has done more to undermine war as an instrument of policy than anything else in the history of mankind. Remove that fear and we are back to where we started.

The author is director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. He writes here in a personal capacity.

Philip Howard

So he writes Yiddish for a living?

Yiddish is one of the strongest and liveliest sources of new English, or Yingleish, partly because of the excellence of New York Jewish novelists. From gonim to kibitzer, Yingleish is continually enriching the language. Where would obvious and other journalists be withoutchutzpa (though some of us are glad to write it rather than have to pronounce it) to describe the quality of rascally brazenness and shameless gall that shocks and amuses? You want an example of chutzpa? How about Elvira the Goner? He broke the Eighth Commandment — by stealing the Bible.

Witty Leo Rosten has just published *Hokey for Yiddish!* with Elm Tree Books which surveys alphabetically, humorously, and learnedly the streams of Yiddish that are coming into the great sea of English. It is not just Yiddish vocabulary that we are adopting, but Yiddish grammatical structures, idioms, and deadpan Jewish humor. For example, consider the characteristic Yiddish usage of taking a predicate adjective or noun and sticking it right in front of the sentence for emphasis: Smart, he isn't. Beautiful, she's not. A genius, Harry isn't. Quick, the new technology ain't. Leo Rosten calls this idiom fronting. More solemn students of linguistics call it topicalization. I know Dickens used it, occasionally, but it is a conspicuously Jewish idiom, and it adds to the varieties of emphasis and innuendo available in English.

"From that (this) he makes a living?" is a particular instance of fronting. A Jew says his son, "Exactly what did Einstein do that was so smart?"

"Einstein revolutionized physics. He proved that matter is energy. That when light goes past the sun, it bends. That..."

"Awright, awright," said the old

man. "But tell me, from that he makes a living?"

Another idiom of Yingleish that exemplifies the deadpan Jewish deployment of sarcasm is the trick of accusing somebody of idleness by denying the obvious. Question: "How would you like an all-expenses-paid trip to Bermuda?" Answer: "I prefer to spend the winter in a foxhole in the Gray's Inn Road."

You can also accuse somebody of insinuation by echoing a question. Question: "Don't you want to meet a wonderful boy and get married and have a fine family?" Answer: "No, I don't want to meet a wonderful boy and get married and have a fine family." (Meaning: How daft can you be to ask such an idiotic question?)

You can affirm indignation by repeating the question in the form in which it was asked, with varying intonation and emphasis. Question: "Did you send your mother flowers on her birthday?" Answer: "Did I send my mother flowers on her birthday?" Rosten distinguishes eight separate meanings for that answer, depending on where you put the stress.

For example, if you put the accent on *flowers*, you imply, "Flowers were just the beginning of what I gave my mother on her birthday."

Another Yingleish idiom is repetition to escape the obvious and maximize persuasiveness: I'm going, I'm going. The difference between "You'll like it" and "You'll like it, you'll like it" is as monumental as the difference between plain and bloodless "I don't know" and "I don't know, I don't know," which is a defiant confession of ignorance. Hamlet also used repetition: I know, I know. But this kind of repetition for emphasis is characteristically Jewish, and its popularity is enriching Yingleish, and increasing the varieties of expression available to all of us.

Paul Routledge

Labour Editor



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MARSHAL USTINOV'S THREAT

It was always to be expected that after Chancellor Kohl's victory in the West German elections the Soviet Union would set out to browbeat Western opinion. Before the elections Soviet spokesmen put the emphasis on sweet reasonableness in the attempt to persuade the Germans to elect a government that would not agree to having American intermediate range nuclear missiles on its territory. Now that that play has failed, the stick has replaced the carrot. So there is no reason for surprise that the Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Ustinov, has been uttering dire warnings of what will happen if cruise and Pershing II missiles are deployed in Western Europe.

The precise nature of the warning may seem a little unexpected. Marshal Ustinov appeared to be trying to alarm the people of the United States just as much as their European allies. Not only did he say in his speech to East German soldiers on Wednesday that the United States would be "offering its Nato allies as targets for nuclear retaliation", but he went on to threaten that the Soviet Union would retaliate directly against American targets if it was attacked by Pershing and cruise missiles from Western Europe.

It may not alarm European opinion as much as the Soviet Union might expect to be told that a nuclear war could not be confined to Europe. Not so long ago there was a flurry of anxiety in Europe - unjustified, but stimulated by some careless words from the President himself - that this might be precisely what the Reagan administration had in mind. So it might even be

thought reassuring for Europe to be told by the Soviet Defence Minister that there is no such possibility. One of the original purposes of having intermediate range missiles in Western Europe was to couple the nuclear defence of Europe with that of the United States. That intention at least would seem to be achieved.

Possibly Marshal Ustinov was intending to weaken the confidence of America's European allies that the United States would be prepared to come to their aid: would it be credible for Washington to threaten to use intermediate range missiles for the defence of Europe if this would place American cities in jeopardy? But it is more probable that he was simply trying to spread a general state of alarm in the West.

The Nato countries should neither be deflected from their existing policy by Marshal Ustinov's speech, nor should they engage in a slanging match with him. Nothing that he said changes the underlying realities. These are that it would be in the best interests of both sides to negotiate a reasonable agreement at Geneva, that the West should negotiate only an agreement that is reasonable - that is one that provides for a balance of forces - and that in the absence of such agreement the missiles should and will be deployed in Western Europe.

Although it would be in the interest of the Soviet Union to reach a settlement, there can be no certainty that its leaders appreciate that. Whether they do may well not be apparent for some months: that they are taking a tough stance at this stage should neither induce the West

to weaken its stance nor cause it to give up the quest as hopeless.

But just as the West is questioning whether the Soviet leaders really want an agreement, so Moscow may be wondering whether the West does. It would not be a justified anxiety - there is no reason to suspect that the United States is not negotiating in good faith at Geneva - but it may exist none the less. So it is important that Western leaders should take every opportunity to reassure the Soviet Union on this score, not by making feeble and foolish concessions but by a temperate firmness. It will also be reassuring to European opinion the more it is made abundantly plain that the Western purpose is negotiation not propaganda.

If the West were now to tremble at Marshal Ustinov's words, however, that would make an agreement less not more likely. Why, the Soviet leaders would ask themselves, should they concede anything if the cruise and Pershing II missiles would never be deployed in Western Europe anyway? So there should be no question of withdrawing conditions which have always been considered fundamental. The task now should not be to soften the conditions which the President has laid down, but to find a meeting place within that framework.

It ought not to be too difficult, given a willingness on both sides to reach an accord. But if it does prove impossible the cause of peace will best be served by going ahead with the deployment of the missiles. Peace depends not so much upon the level of armaments as upon preserving a balance and the confidence that neither side would act insanely.

NORTHERN IRELAND'S SHOP WINDOW

The manufacturing part of the Northern Ireland economy is more or less flat on its back (the total number of the unemployed in the province actually exceeds the number at work in the manufacturing sector). The Provisional IRA is still very much in the field, and what the world understands as a political settlement is as unrealizable as ever. Yet, as our Belfast correspondent reports, official bodies there are preparing a special push to persuade the outside world of Ulster's advantages for business investment and its charms as a place for a nice holiday. What is more they are quite right to do so.

In season and out of season the inherent strengths and graces of Ulster deserve to be proclaimed. They have been masked but they have not been shattered by suppressed rebellion and political turmoil. They include a well educated and industrious workforce, with a record as measured by the frequency of industrial disputes a good deal better than that either in the island to the east or in the republic to the south; an excellent infrastructure for transport and communications; an openness to the arts, especially in the fields of poetry and the performing arts; a gentle landscape of hills, streams and lakes, and a coastline of imperishable grandeur.

When it comes to attracting tourists Northern Ireland and the Republic would do well to pull together. Both have had something of a slump to which the Republic's now overpriced currency has contributed, as has terrorism and the reputation it gets a place. In so far as the two parts of Ireland are in competition for the same pool of tourists Northern Ireland now has a price advantage in tourist-sensitive items like petrol, food and drink, thanks largely to the swinging consumer taxes that Irish governments have felt

constrained to impose. Indeed, Northern Ireland's busiest traffic in visitors takes the form of bulk shopping expeditions from across the border. The shopkeepers of Newry grow fat while those of Dundalk cry to their ministers for protection. But temporary movements in relative attraction should not be allowed to interfere with cooperative action by the tourist agencies both sides of the border to drum up business for Ireland.

The competition for inward investment on the other hand is stark, and here the Republic has had it very much its own way for a decade and more. In the six years 1975-80 the Republic secured 416 new investment projects from overseas (excluding the United Kingdom) yielding 66,000 jobs; Northern Ireland 18 projects with 7,500 jobs; and Scotland, for comparison, 37 projects with 7,000 jobs.

Many factors underlie this variety of performance including the psychological effects of terrorism, the professionalism of the Republic's promotional machine and the advantage it derives from having its own representation abroad. But by common consent most of the strength of the magnet has come from the tax and other incentives offered by the Republic of Ireland. Profits attributable to manufactured exports were wholly and indefinitely exempt from taxation, until the EEC rumbled the practice. At the beginning of 1981 that was replaced by an all-round 10 per cent rate of corporation tax. Although the many and varied grants and exemptions available in Northern Ireland would sometimes add-up in value to the Republic's offering, they did not have the simple attraction of a tax holiday. Mr Prior has now at last matched that with a new package of which the centrepiece is corporation tax relief of up to 80 per cent on approved projects. With that in the briefcase

the province's industrial promoters can take to the road with rather more confidence.

Something else happened in Belfast recently which may not find a place in a salesman's kit but it is of more import to the community than anything to do with investment incentives. The recently appointed Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Cahal Daly, gave an address in the Anglican cathedral of St Anne's just before Easter and spoke in accents of magnanimity and justice truly worthy of his office.

He said Unionists were justified in believing in their right and duty under the law to defend the political institutions and bodying their convictions against the threat of overthrow by armed uprising. He said there are people, not all of them Unionists, who choose policing as a career of service to the whole Northern Ireland community. He said that for all its faults "the Stormont regime had notable successes and achievements to its credit"; at the level of administration Catholics often experienced understanding and cooperation. He said it was his conviction that if the paramilitary republicans were to call off their violence "the desire for peace among both Nationalists and Unionists is so strong and the instinct for fairness and justice among Protestants is so widespread that a just settlement could be agreed more quickly than the sceptics believe". He also called on Protestants - for he spoke with balance - to recognize Catholic grievances and sensitivities.

This was more than the rhetoric of reconciliation. It was the courageous and sympathetic testimony of a Roman Catholic churchman to what is good and valid in Ulster Protestantism. Real respect was there. It demands, and surely will not be denied, reciprocation.

Public sector strikes

From Mr M. R. Field
Sir, Lord Campbell of Alloway (March 15) is absolutely correct when he states that legal imposition of a "no strike" clause would not be viable without mandatory arbitral machinery. However, there should be no need to get to that stage, given the correct attitudes of both sides.

The Ministry of Defence Staff Association was born in 1981 because many non-industrial civil servants in the Ministry of Defence believed that strike action (dictated in that year by the central Civil Service unions) was wrong in such vital areas as defence. Amongst its main aims the association seeks to negotiate a "no strike" agreement, in return for statutory safeguards on pay. I underline the latter because it must be emphasized that it has been successive governments, both Labour and Conservative, who unilaterally abrogated the long established arrangements for determining Civil Service pay.

Whether these were necessarily good for the economic health of the country is not directly relevant to the matter under discussion, but when honoured by both parties they

worked satisfactorily. There is now such a climate of distrust that no such arrangement could work, and therefore an agreement legally binding on both sides would seem to be the only solution.

There are undoubtedly many public service employees who would willingly sign a "no strike" agreement if they could be assured that the government of the day would not seek to make them the example to others of the virtues of pay restraint.

The present Government would succeed much better with its employees if it gave an indication of being willing to move in that direction: regrettably it does not. In fact the Prime Minister has gone on record as saying that "no strike" agreements can prove expensive. Nothing like as expensive as prolonged industrial action, I suggest, and in the longer term far more healthy for industrial relations, which have reached a sorry state in nearly all public service areas. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MICHAEL R. FIELD,
Ministry of Defence Staff Association,
368A Upper Richmond Road West,
East Sheen, SW14.

Police and liberty

From Mr Charles Cory-Wright
Sir, You report today (March 30) an assurance by the Home Secretary that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will "not allow random searches for incriminating evidence or the production of confidential records which would not be admissible in evidence".

This assurance would be more reassuring were it legally obtained evidence not currently admissible (unless a judge exercises his discretion to exclude it). The Bill attempts to revise this situation by asking the judge to exercise his discretion before charge: on an ex parte application for an order to search for that incriminating evidence. If he gives this order, does this affect judicial discretion to exclude at trial? And should there not be blanket exclusion of illegally obtained evidence (as defined by common law at the moment) anyway?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CORY-WRIGHT,
Tilthill House,
Tilford,
Surrey,
March 30.

Balancing act on nuclear weapons

From Lord Gladwyn
Sir, I believe most people would agree with the general tone and temper of your excellent leader of April 5, subject, perhaps, to the following mental reservations.

Always provided that each side possesses the assured capacity to annihilate the other on a "second strike" - which is the present and the likely future position - it does not seem to matter very much whether the USSR has a strategic "preponderance" over the USA or not.

Then again, as regards "intermediate" weapons in Europe, is it necessary for us to match the SS20s missile for missile? Even if the Russians retain sufficient capacity to wipe out many major towns in Western Europe, surely all we want as a "deterrent" is sufficient (invulnerable) weapons to be certain of eliminating (say) Leningrad, Minsk and Kiev on a second strike.

The "numbers game", in other words, is really rather silly. But if we must play it there is every logical reason why at least some account should be taken of the nuclear weapons of the UK and of France. After all, though we maintain that they are "strategic", they would undoubtedly be used in retaliation if the SS20s were ever employed against Western European targets, so they are, presumably, just as "intermediate", in practice, as cruise, or Pershing 2s, to say nothing of US SLBMs assigned to Nato.

What is now patently foolish is the continued maintenance by Nato of no fewer than 6,000 so-called "tactical" nuclear weapons, which should be greatly reduced, if not withdrawn altogether. Regarded as first or as second-strike weapons they are clearly self-defeating, and the same applies to the Russian equivalent.

Finally, if the American Administration, perhaps under the influence of Congress, is induced to moderate its present plans for an enormous increase in its nuclear arsenal all to devote - along with the money saved - to a strengthening of our "conventional" defences, there might be some prospect of achieving eventually a genuine overall "balance" that could virtually eliminate the possibility of any major East-West conflict.

Yours faithfully,
GLADWYN,
Bramfield Hall,
Halesworth,
Suffolk,
April 6.

Deported Romanian

From Prince Alexandre Nicolaevitch Galitzine

Sir, I read with avid interest Count Tolstoy's letter of March 30 concerning the victims of Eastern European totalitarianism. It is entirely lamentable that Mr Papusoiu was returned to what must surely be a fate worse than death in the present Roumania (a fate perhaps worse than a lifetime of *la cuisine anglaise*).

England's record, as I well know, is deplorable in its treatment of refugees. After the Russian debacle of 1917, what did England do? It was certainly instrumental in bringing about the death of our Imperial Family by its criticism and lack of moral courage in not acting promptly to save them. It gave grudgingly asylum to a mere handful of émigrés (those with close ties to the British Royal House) and, furthermore, by its refusal to support financially *l'armée blanche*, and its subsequent sending of an expeditionary invasion force to the Russian homeland, it ruined the White cause and transformed wrongly the Red Army into being the true saviours of Russia, fighting to protect the homeland.

All of Stalin's subsequent dealings with the West were, in this light, right and proper. He alone understood the treachery and hypocrisy of England. *Ei volia Yalta!*

England has the melancholy responsibility for the initial growth and proliferation of communism today. And its responsibility, therefore, towards its wretched victims.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDRE GALITZINE,
40 Avenue President Wilson,
Paris XVI,
France,
March 30.

Design for living

From Mr B. P. Smith
Sir, I have just caught up with the latest correspondence in your columns on design education, and, as a recent Professor of Design Management at the Royal College of Art, would like to make a point.

All the time that art-and-design are lumped together like William and Mary or fish-and-chips, so each will damage its ability to stand on its own. Where can most young people study design except at colleges of art-and-design?

Of course manufacturing industries suspect the products of such places. The way to achieve a better recognition of design as a value-adding resource is to get it out of the art colleges.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN P. SMITH,
Old Court House,
Old Court Place,
Kensington, W8,
March 29.

Funeral of a spy

From Mr Stewart Foster
Sir, Was it purely coincidental, I wonder, that the funeral of the late Professor Anthony Blunt took place on the Wednesday of Holy Week, traditionally called "Spy Wednesday"? I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
STEWART FOSTER,
29 Bramley Road, N14,
March 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Television costs at breakfast time

From the Managing Director of BBC Television

Sir, Your leader of April 6 misjudges both the intention and the impact of BBC Breakfast Time.

As far as we can tell, in excess of six million people watch *Breakfast Time* each week, at a production cost to the BBC of a little over £6m annually.

In other words, the BBC is providing the additional service *Breakfast Time* for around £1 per viewer reached - money which is being found from existing resources released as a result of overseas sales and the streamlining of our efforts.

This is not only extremely cost-effective television broadcasting, but also - to judge from what our viewers tell us - new programming which is thought both enjoyable and highly effective.

Your leader makes the tacit and mistaken assumption that popularity is not the province of public-service broadcasters. *Breakfast Time* has proved that it is possible to be popular whilst being informative.

Yours faithfully,
AUBREY SINGER,
Managing Director,
BBC Television,
BBC Television Centre, W12,
April 6.

Christians and Jews

From Dr John Searle

Sir, Your editorial, "Jesus was a Jew" (April 2) rightly condemns the organized Church for 2,000 years of antisemitism. While nothing can justify such treatment of God's ancient people by his Church, you fail to grasp the fundamental point of tension between Jew and Christian.

Certainly Jesus was a Jew - but because he claimed to be the Jews' Messiah, they themselves rejected him. From that point on, Christian and Jew inevitably took separate roads - the one rejecting that the Messiah had come, the other longing that he might come.

The Apostle Paul was well aware of this divergence when he wrote to the Church at Ephesus. How, he asks, may Jew and Gentile be reconciled? His answer is that they must first be reconciled to God. "For he (that is Jesus) is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility... that he might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing hostility to an end."

When then is the way forward now? First, Christians need to ask forgiveness, both of God and the Jews, for centuries of wrongdoing. Secondly, we must try to demonstrate that pattern of love which Christ gave us. But thirdly, the Church must humbly insist that Jesus is what the Jewish leaders of old condemned him for claiming to be - the Son of God. Just as to many a Gentile such a claim is foolishness so to many a Jew it remains a stumbling block.

Teacher training

From Mr Michael J. Wilcott

Sir, The protestations of Mr K. L. Gardner and Professor Browne concerning their experience of the fairness of teacher training selection procedures (March 28) would be more credible but for the notable absence of any indication by them as to the substantive criteria by which candidates are selected.

No doubt most institutions - especially self-governing monoliths, such as Departments of Education - habitually proceed on the assumption that their particular methods of selection are the best and fairest, whatever the statistical evidence as to the latter that may be presented from outside research. In this case there appears to be a significant discontinuity between the experience of your two correspondents and recent indications that up to a quarter of candidates accepted for teacher training ultimately prove unsuitable for their proposed career.

In the light of my own experience of the selection methods of education faculties I think I may be forgiven for treating the comments of Mr Gardner and Professor Browne with a greater degree of scepticism than most.

I have been a candidate for teacher training at two separate institutions in two consecutive years. I possess two History degrees and am about to present a PhD thesis. More important, however, at the time of my last interview I had gained nearly two years of experience in actual teaching at private schools.

Elgin marbles

From Dr Rowland J. Mainstone

Sir, In Athens recently I was shown the present state of the exemplary work of repairing the damaged marble blocks of the Erechtheion and re-erecting them in a manner more faithful to the original state of the monument. One major difficulty remains.

A column and an architrave block from the north corner of the east porch are missing - part of the Elgin collection in London. Completion of this corner is essential, both for the aesthetic unity of the monument and for its future structural safety. The missing column and architrave could be replaced by copies. But the reinstatement of the originals would be far preferable.

I was therefore very disappointed to see, on my return, your report of the reply of the Minister for the Arts

unwarranted impression of size and influence.

The commercial reality is that if TV-am achieved their reported target of £20m income this year, that would represent about 2½ per cent of ITV advertisement revenue.

This positions TV-am in capacity and influence as similar to one of ITV's smaller regional companies. Against that background it cannot be viable to employ over 300 staff (many earning special rates of pay for working unsocial hours), mount an essential supporting news-gathering operation independently of ITN resources, service the capital invested in a most handsome television centre and produce some 19 hours per week of live programmes offering overall appeal to a UK network breakfast audience whose understandably small numbers are already divided by BBC competition.

When the BBC took the decision to compete for the breakfast television audience, the availability of impressive resources already serving existing television and radio channels presented a challenge that a small ITV unit could hardly hope to meet on its own.

At that point the concept of TV-am as a viable sixteenth ITV company competing for advertisement revenue with 15 others and providing a UK network service seven days a week required reappraisal. It still does, in my view.

Yours faithfully,
RON WOODLEY,
Managing Director,
HTV Limited,
The Television Centre,
Cardiff,
April 6.

Fading in the hills

From Dr M. Hughes

Sir, Patricia Clough reports (feature, March 25) that those anxious to reserve minority languages in Europe are looking to Wales as a model of successful language conservation.

If so, they are making a serious mistake. The many and various measures adopted here over the last 20 or so years have failed totally to halt the decline of Welsh, now spoken by about 18 per cent of the population. As Ms Clough admits, the language is "fading in the hills but has become terribly chic in the middle class suburbs..." Quite so. Like all middle-class fads, this latest is likely to disappear as quickly as it came.

There is another side to the coin. Your issue of March 23 reported the worryingly poor performance of Welsh schoolchildren, who, at 15 years of age, "scored bottom of all regions on all scales, normally by a considerable margin". One reason for this may be the fact that, of all the regions in the United Kingdom, it is only in Wales that many of those involved in the education system see its main purpose as the preservation of the Welsh language and subordinate all other considerations to this, for example, the selection of teachers or the organization of secondary education.

Among the policies pursued in Wales at present, only one shows some signs of success, the unjust and unjustified discrimination against non-Welsh-speakers in important fields of employment. It is this which has led the middle classes to become converts to Welsh, by supporting the language, they hope to obtain advantage for themselves and their children. One wonders how long this will last when they see their children emerging from school semi-literate in two languages.

Yours faithfully,
M. HUGHES,
Larne,
North Road,
Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

Teams on transfer

From Mr Richard P. B. Barber

Sir, There is, I believe, a very simple method of solving professional soccer's present crisis: immediately institute a system of 50 per cent promotion, 50 per cent relegation in all divisions.

Almost every team in the League would eventually get to play in the higher echelons, thereby creating crowd interest and support at grounds all over the country. Managers could take a longer term view and good young players might be encouraged to stay with a club. It is likely that transfer fees would stay down as a consequence.

It is not a very original idea; I think that it was first proposed by the great Chapman, manager of Arsenal, before the last war.

Yours etc,
RICHARD BARBER,
128 Edith Terrace, SW10,
March 25.

Sea fever

From Mr David Moss

Sir, "Deep sea merchant crews are entitled to one day off for every two days worked, whereas ferry crews have one and a half days off for every day worked." (*The Times*, April 6).

Good grief!
Yours faithfully,
DAVID MOSS,
4 Melina Place, NW8,
April 6.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Revelation of Japanese vivacity

Treasures from a Golden Age
National Film Theatre

Smithereens (15)
Screen on the Green

Best Friends (PG)
Warner West End

The Girl with the Red Hair
ICA

"One of cinema's most melancholy tragedies", wrote Donald Richie and Joseph L. Anderson in *The Japanese Film*, first published in 1959; they were referring to international ignorance of Japanese cinema before 1950, and the tragedy is still with us. Certainly we know Kurosawa; we appreciate the ascetic wonders of Ozu, the poetic panache of Mizoguchi; we have even seen Godzilla fight the Smog Monster. But many other films and talents remain impenetrable names in books. Now we can broaden our parochial horizons with the National Film Theatre's current season Treasures from a Golden Age. There are 26 Japanese films from the Thirties and Forties, many totally unfamiliar to Western audiences: films displaying such a lively regard for characters, landscape and style that they make one realize afresh the ugly tactics of contemporary cinema - another melancholy tragedy.

The season, lovingly organized by John Gillett, includes rare early films by Ozu (on Sunday), Mizoguchi's sumptuous biography of a Kabuki actor, *Story of Late Chrysanthemums* (April 19) and several Kurosawa dramas, from the Forties (showing his forceful

style in embryo). Yet the brightest treasures may well be four films by Hiroshi Shimizu - a director largely unknown in the West, bewilderingly prolific (he made some 150 films in 35 years) and clearly greatly gifted. Trumpeting new discoveries can be a dangerous business; some of us have yet to recover from the works of U Tu Kha, a veteran Burmese hailed by this year's Manila Film Festival as a delicate Asian master, though the samples on offer had the visual delicacy of a coal-scuttie. There should be no such disappointment with Shimizu: the very opening scene of *A Star Athlete* (1937), showing this evening) proclaims a distinctive personality with a natural cinematic eye and a kindly, warming spirit.

Biographical facts are scarce: he was born in 1903, began directing in 1924 and died in 1966. In Japan he is best known for films about children; after the Second World War he established a home for war orphans and cast them in several films, including *Children of the Beehive* (which ends the season on April 30). Children, plainly, were one of Shimizu's passions. Fragments of narrative become building blocks in delightful cinematic games: in *A Star Athlete*, ostensibly concerned with high-school student life, a road march becomes the triumphant occasion for a dizzy chain of travelling shots by the camera. The plot of *Four Seasons of Children* (1939), showing tomorrow) similarly crumbles into a beguiling round of infant activity: cat fishing, delivering milk, endless scampering through village streets. With Shimizu we can rediscover the fundamental, primitive power of cinema and the simple pleasure of moving images.

This important season also pinpoints shared characteristics of Japan's "golden age". Family dramas vibrate with domestic detail. Mikio Naruse's *The Whole Family Works* (1939,

April 20) offers a mastery example; the family's financial problems are exposed in cluttered interiors that seem lifted from life, not artfully arranged by the set designer. The films provide abundant location shooting and uncommonly graceful acting for the latter, see Heinosuke Gosho's *L'Amour* on Tuesday). There is also attractive evidence that Japan's film-makers maintained a sense of humour even in a fiercely nationalistic age. Selected films from the season are making regional appearances in Cardiff, Nottingham, Newcastle and Edinburgh, on no account should they be missed.

Superficially, *Smithereens* seems the kind of film one would gladly smash to smithereens: a portrait of New York's punks and drifters, perilously surviving in a world of gaudy graffiti, low morals and high debits. In fact the young director Susan Seidelman, a New York Film School graduate, explores this well-trodden territory with stimulating acuity. The heroine, Wren, is a New Jersey lass with no money and a decreasing circle of spongeable friends. A fallen rock star, Eric (effectively played by Richard Hell, a progenitor of punk music), offers her woolly dreams of a trip to Los Angeles; upright Paul, who at least owns a van, offers rural bliss in New Hampshire. "I don't even like trees", Wren argues; Eric, inevitably, wins.

"Everyone's a little weird these days, it's normal", Wren says at one point with unusual perception, and the film's strength of character largely stems from a similar clear-eyed attitude. The tone is generally light-hearted, though melancholic sadness periodically descends (a prostitute, for instance, joins Wren in Paul's van for a shared sandwich and school memories of making clay turtles). Before this film, Susan Seidelman had little professional acting experience, but she makes the potentially tiresome

heroine appealingly vulnerable; the ensemble playing, too, is sharp. We should cherish, not smash, *Smithereens*.

Best Friends is another film to be quietly grateful for: a Hollywood comedy that sympathetically turns the clock back to the crazy comedies of the Thirties and Forties - treasures from another golden age. There are stylistic signs of the Eighties, naturally: if this were 1937, no heroine's hand would explore the hero's hairy chest in extreme close-up, in the shower; the soundtrack would also never be burdened with redundant songs by Michel Legrand. But the script by Valerie Carrin and Barry Levinson (one in a long line of Hollywood husband-and-wife teams) confidently demonstrates old-fashioned skills of character comedy: it is not for nothing that the hero and heroine are scriptwriters themselves. Burt Reynolds and Goldie Hawn - an engaging pair - play two best friends who hit difficulties only when they marry and embark on a honeymoon trip to their parents. As with *Diner*, his debut film as a director, Levinson displays a keen eye and ear for social embarrassments, while Norman Jewison directs with the accomplished anonymity he brought to Universal comedies in the Sixties. The film springs no surprises, makes no demands, prompts no disappointment.

The Girl with the Red Hair, an uncensored Dutch film showing at the ICA, slots with equal ease into its own cinematic niche: the dramas of resistance heroism during the Second World War. The director is Ben Verbong, a Dutch Film Academy graduate here making his first full-length feature. He shows an intermittently impressive mastery of tense atmosphere and dark colouring, yet ultimately the film's striking moments are scattered too thinly for audience comfort.

Geoff Brown

Television
Dance of despair

The most significant event of television last night was not a programme but a piece of scheduling, as Jeremy Isaacs presented his "jollier, happier face" to the fun-lovers of ITV. Is he waving? Or is he drowning? Not even he will know the truth for a while, but the fact remains that it is harder to alter prejudices than it is to create them in the first place. I am personally rather sorry that Channel 4's excellent film tradition should be represented by the irritatingly arch *P.T. Tang Yang Kipperberg*, but the evening as a whole convinced more "ordinary" viewers that the new chaps, despite their kneejerk radicalism, really have brought a breath of fresh air into a world grown muggy.

Over on the other side the BBC drama department was proving yet again that it can produce moving wallpaper costing hundreds of thousands of pounds. Deadlines prevent my reporting on last night's episode of *Dancers* (BBC2), but Wednesday's was even more banal than the advance publicity had suggested. As long as you steer them off their hopes, despairs, obsessions, resentments and ailments, dancers are delightful people, but unfortunately *The Benefit* had been built round the converse theory.

We got every cliché in the book. The avant-garde choreographer was a big soft hunk in a white suit with an athlete boyfriend and a familiar line of patter. "Feel the contraction", he hissed at the bravely battling classical ballerina as she drowned her disillusion in experimental art. "Sensuous, sensuous, the floor is a friend. Enjoy the floor." All she wanted, she said, was to go home, fix her journalist boyfriend some black coffee, quarrel "like other mothers" with her daughter and watch television (preferably not a programme about dancers).

Tragedy of a different sort loomed between younger terpsichoreans. "You're getting obsessed", said the male soloist. "Accept yourself for what you are." "I'm tired of being a soloist", pouted the female, high on bean-sprouts and seaweed. "I'm going to be a principal. You'll always be mediocre." And so on. There were some sweet little students and there was plenty of action, both classical and of the urgently meaningless contemporary variety.

Episode one of *Jury* (BBC1) was drama for those of a nervous disposition who prefer to keep their net curtains tightly closed. It concerned a nice chap who went on a jury, had a louché lady and nearly got nicked for speeding. *Pavlov* Better stay home and watch television. The music (Mike Westbrook) sounds good, the countryside looks pretty and you learn a awful lot about the jury rule book.

Nicholas Kenyon

Michael Church

Theatre
Surprise for the tourists

Medieval Players
Gate

Did you hear the one about the cuckold, the wife and the lecherous priest? Well yes, I was afraid you had: it has been around a while, and was not new when John Heywood wrote *A Merry Play between Johan Johan the husband, Tib his wife, and the priest Sir Johan* in the 1530s or so.

Heywood, a "mad merry wit" who knew Sir Thomas More (and More wrote a few of these little farces himself, it seems), had a slyly ironic way with dialogue and enjoyed the mischievous symbolism of having the husband rub melting candles by the fire while his wife and her lover gorge on a pie, but it is sad that, at a time when Aristophanes was being rediscovered, the Greek comedian's wit, incident and richness of

character did not stir farce on a more interesting scale.

The Medieval Players, whose tireless travel with this strenuous programme (also including juggling with everything from sickles to firebrands) suggests superhuman stamina and dedication, have a few surprises for the American tourists who will doubtless pack their performance as Magdalen cloisters at Oxford and the garden of the Treasurer's House in York.

A maniac called Mark Heap, clambering on the seats and ushering us in with ape-like gestures, runs amok with any scarves or handbags convenient before reappearing as a Pardoner, almost as smarmy as Chaucer's, laden with suspect relics and a papal Bull from Leo X, and fighting fit for a shouting match with a friar whose claim that he "comes not hither to babble nor to prattle" proves decidedly misleading.

In a corner, sometimes taking the stage with diffidence, Tom Finucane and Giles Lewis on rebeck, lute and recorder play with a delicacy that makes the corresponding limitations of contemporary drama hard to ignore. Chaucer himself turns out to be the real comic playwright *manqué* in the evening's most joyous sketch, a puppet version of the Reeve's Tale.

Reproducing the versatility of their professional forebears, the cast romp through the outwittings and swiftings and complicated sleeping arrangements typical of *The Canterbury Tales*, with Mark Seban as mercurial narrator. That alone is worth a ticket's price; but I pray you, my masters, bestow your jerkins where fellow Heap may not find and make sport with them. I only just kept him off mine.

Anthony Masters

Opera

Anna Karenina
Los Angeles

Opera remains erratic in Los Angeles. There was *Elektra* last spring and the Royal Opera is promised next year. But the San Francisco and the New York City Operas have discontinued their seasons here. That leaves the valiant little Los Angeles Opera Theater, led by its apparently indomitable artistic director Johanna Dordick. Under such daunting circumstances, one might have excused them for opening their fourth season with something sure-fire - *Carmen*, say - for a company offering a season of only three operas (and only three performances each) to a largely uncultivated local audience can ill afford risks. This season opened with *Anna Karenina*, the English opera (of 10) by the 60-year-old Scots composer Iain Hamilton. Such audacity does the company credit, but it probably also, in the long run, does it harm.

This marked, incidentally, the first American production of any opera by Mr Hamilton, and also Los Angeles' first American operatic premiere since about 1900, when *La Bohème* made its American debut here.

For an experienced opera-going public, the fluidly chromatic music of Hamilton (since 1972 a born-again tonalist) is one local critic's deft phrase: makes only the mildest demands. *Anna Karenina* had the considerable advantage of performance in the audience's native language, by conscientious singers with generally better than average enunciation. Chris Nance conducted it impressively, Richard Pearlman (with a few startlingly irrational lapses) staged it more than competently and Ronald Chase provided projections and made artistic imagination and mad much out of little. The cast included some gifted, attractive artists. Yet a number of people



Emily Rawlins's soaring Anna, with Evan Bortnick

left during the first interval, and a lot more during the second. What went wrong?

In my opinion the audience did. Certainly Mr Hamilton, as librettist and composer, has not created an unflawed work, as its unveiling by the English National Opera in 1981 made clear. The opera deserved a better audience, though, than it got here. Probably anything more demanding than *Blossom Time* would have overtaxed many of these first-nighters. Even Mr Hamilton's mild modernisms flummoxed all too many of them completely; one heard the frequent complaint that it sounded English, not Russian.

The Wilshire Ebell Theater, best known as a chamber-music hall, has a small, shallow stage. Mr Chase worked wonders by projecting his settings on to a scrim; that meant scenery in front of the performers rather than behind them, but sensitively nuanced lighting made it work. Sherry Thompson provided sumptuous Russian Imperial costumes.

The scrim remains in place throughout the whole evening, and any scrim separating singers and audience has an obvious acoustical disadvantage, for even the openest wave erects a sonic barricade, however low, which the voices have to burdle. Considering all aspects of this production -

primarily the stage limitations and the budget (\$586,000 for this production plus *The Ellixir of Love* and *Tosca*) - the decision in favour of the scrim makes good sense.

It acts, with the stage behind it darkened, as a projection screen not only for still photographs of handsome old Russian palaces and other edifices, to set the scene, but also for motion-picture sequences, including almost overwhelming close-ups of Anna registering various emotions.

Mr Hamilton's skewed dramaturgy (Anna and Vronsky meet; then she informs him of her pregnancy; then, and only then, do we see anything even remotely resembling a love scene between them) does not benefit from certain lapses in Mr Pearlman's otherwise sensible staging. More than once, where the situation cries out for the movers to embrace, or at least kiss, they do no more than gaze soulfully, check to check, towards the projection booth.

Emily Rawlins, as Anna, gave her lovely soprano free, soaring rein whenever the score's fairly frequent lyric passages permitted. Evan Bortnick, as Vronsky, and Roger Roloff, as Karenin, distinguished themselves in demanding roles. Lawrence Cooper, Judith Cristin and Kathryn Gamberton stood out in supporting performances.

Paul Moor

LMP/Blech
Festival Hall

Not such a good night: the booklet had run out of scores, the hall had run out of programmes and the London Mozart Players had run out of enthusiasm. Or so it seemed from an oddly lumpy and unbalanced score of Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony, even though Harry Blech kept a firm grip on the proceedings by not allowing a moment's pause between movements.

The playing was never less than adequate - since I last heard the orchestra, ensemble and tuning seemed to have improved - but there was still a

fuzziness of attack and an unevenness of balance that made the performance less than scintillating.

For every good solo player - the two clarinets, on Wednesday - there are several less outstanding, and though the string sound (which is given a special character by Blech's placing of the double basses on the left) is warm, the chords never mesh with that firmness characteristic of an orchestra whose members are used to listening to one another. Rhythms are attacked with verve but then relapse into a jog-trot, and climaxes are whipped out of nowhere, more fury than significant sound.

The evening's main attraction was the appearance of the Tortelier family ensemble in Beethoven's Triple Concerto: a piece that scarcely could be more suited to the family talents if they had commissioned it themselves, since the cello part is far and away the most prominent, while the piano and violin have secondary roles.

I find it a work difficult to keep patience with, for much of the material in the outer movements is deeply uninspiring and even Beethoven's more clever touches - the off-beat dissonances which peek away under the cello's first entry - do not quite work.

The problems of balance are conventionally solved here by Maria de la Pau's crisp, small-scale piano sound. It never threatened to overwhelm her father's flamboyant cello playing, which was as always vividly projected. Yan Pascal Tortelier's violin playing was less ingratiating, more wiry, with frequent grabs at the notes and slips of intonation, but he was quite agile enough to match his relatives admirably in the hectoring sequences of the finale.

The short, slow movement went best. Mr Blech rarely looked round at his soloists, and so missed them at several vital points. The enthusiastic house was rewarded with an encore by the trio alone: a scamper through Haydn's "Gypsy Rondo".

Afterwards, with the addition of Stephen Ties and Lionel Handy as second violin and second cellist, we heard the String Sextet by the teacher Brinen fortunately did get, Frank Bridge. It took from 1906 until 1912 for him to compose, but the results seem to have been well worth the effort.

Astonishingly, some of the harmonies in the faster sections recall early Schoenberg, and, although the finale is perhaps slightly weak in its ideas, Bridge's indisputable craftsmanship is elevated by an imagination I had not suspected. The performers obviously liked it too. The deeply felt emotion of their reading was complemented handsomely by a rare accuracy and breadth of sound.

Stephen Pettitt

Fine ensemble in the making

Hanson Quartet
Wigmore Hall

I often wonder what Britten's music would have sounded like had he been allowed what a student at the Royal College of Music to go to Vienna for lessons with Berg. Maybe *Peter Grimes* would have been exactly the same, but surely his route towards the English would have been quite different. Yet, however much we may regret what was not, who could argue that pieces like the First String Quartet do not themselves mark out a majestic line of development?

The young Hanson Quartet gave a penetrating account of that first essay in their medium, written in America in 1941. Although outwardly a

conventional sequence of four movements, it is a work of great originality and violent contrasts.

The opening movement oscillates between a texture of strange high-pitched dissonant clusters beneath which the cello offers slow triadic runnings and an Allegro vivo which rejoices in its easy syncopations. Similarly the Allegretto con slancio exploits the principle of alternation, here between a calm crotchety pulse and explosive cascades of triplet quavers.

In both of these movements the Hanson's rhythms were razor-sharp, and always a unanimity of purpose was more important than individual glory, a hallmark of the quartet in the making. Before the shattering brilliance of the

finale's counterpoint, here equally well played, the reflective Andante calmo forms the work's emotional core. In this movement, as earlier in Mozart's Quartet, K157, the Hanson's violin player, Peter Lale, fully matched the luscious sound of Martin Lovday, his cellist colleague.

Afterwards, with the addition of Stephen Ties and Lionel Handy as second violin and second cellist, we heard the String Sextet by the teacher Brinen fortunately did get, Frank Bridge. It took from 1906 until 1912 for him to compose, but the results seem to have been well worth the effort.

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Stephen Pettitt

Study in display

Stephen Hope
Orchestra
Fairfield Hall

The indefatigable Ronald Smith, who has laboured long in pursuit of the elusive Alkan, brought to performance on Wednesday night a *Concerto de camera* which he relates to the mysterious concerto the 18-year-old Alkan is known to have performed at the Paris Conservatoire in 1832. Hugh Macdonald is credited with finding a set of orchestral parts, though we are not told where, and a full score was realized from these by Rosemary Aiken of Glasgow University.

It is cast in a continuous span lasting some 16 minutes, with three sections corresponding to the usual movements of a classical concerto, though with more weight in the finale. In style it is less linked to Chopin than to the keyboard writing of Moscheles or perhaps Hummel.

The world premiere of Iain Hamilton's setting of the Passion of Our Lord according to St Mark, for soloists, chorus and orchestra, is to be given in St John's, Smith Square, on May 6.

Noel Goodwin

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 672.2 up 8.3
 FT All Shares 421.64 up 5.88
 Bargains: 27,336
 Tring Mail USM Index unchanged
 Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Average 8,442.45 down 306.55
 Hongkong Hang Seng Index 1,014.16 up 15.68
 New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1,115.82 up 2.13

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5070 down 75pts
 DM 3.8425 down 0.3
 FF 10.9100
 Yen 358.50
 Dollar Index 122.3 up 0.3
 DM 2.4130 down 30pts
 Gold \$425.50 down \$2
 Gold \$425.75
 Sterling \$1.5035

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Base rates 10 1/2
 3 month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 9 1/4-9 1/2
 3 month DM 5-4 1/2
 3 month 14 1/2-13 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
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 Average reference rate for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

BAT Ind 715p up 65p
Blue Circle Industries 448p up 10p
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Plessey 559p up 15p
Thorn EMI 503p up 13p
Brown Shipley 365p down 15p
Comm Union 138p down 4p
Grattan 58p down 6p
Massey Ferguson 235p down 10p
Burnham Oil 174p down 4p
Sotheby 495p down 5p

TODAY

Interims: Scottish Metropolitan Property.
Finals: Armitage Bros, Clyde Petroleum, Dinkie Heel, Emray, J E England and Sons (Wellington), Insurance Corp of Ireland, Lyle Shipping, North British Canadian Inv, Senior Engineering Grp, Trans National Tst, E Upton, George Willis.
Economic statistics: Car and commercial vehicle production (Feb final).

£10m tax fall lifts Thomson

THOMSON PROFIT: The International Thomson Organisation increased its net earnings to £51.5m last year compared with £43.5m in 1981. But the increase was entirely accounted for by a £10m drop in income taxes to £53.9m. The company had a successful year in the North Sea, where it has a major interest in the Piper oil field.

But its publishing interests suffered a £4.7m closure and re-organization costs and £12.4m exceptional development spending (£7.4m in 1981), both charged against virtually unchanged £14.6m trading profits.

COPE BID: The Dowdall consortium, which is bidding for Cope Allman International, now has acceptance for its 60p offer for 21.51 per cent of the shares. The acceptances include 1.8 per cent from private shareholders.

DIGITAL DISCS: EMI Music is to release its first digital compact discs this summer. Two hundred records will be available within 12 months for use on the new CD system developed by Philips and Sony.

ICI CONTRACT: A partnership of Imperial Chemical Industries and Simon Engineering's Sim-Chem subsidiary expects shortly to be awarded a contract to help build a \$600m chlor-alkali plant in Indonesia.

INSURANCE BUY: Hill Samuel group is expanding its insurance broking interests with the £4.6m acquisition of Hill House Group, the Bristol-based motor and household insurance broker. The combination of Hill House with Hill Samuel's Lowndes Lambert will put the group among the top half-dozen personal brokers in the country.

Dow edges higher but stays vulnerable

New York (Reuters) - Stock prices yesterday edged higher in early trading in a spill-over from Wednesday's late bargain-hunting, with the Dow Jones Industrial average up about 2 1/2 points.

Advances led declines three to two, and 14 million shares changed hands in the first half-hour of trading. The Dow had closed on Wednesday 6.67 points down, after being 14 points higher. Yesterday analysts said that investors may be attracted to the market because of its ability to recoup some of Wednesday's early losses. But they said that the market was very vulnerable to any negative financial news and could still reverse itself.

The market has been hammered over the past two sessions by surprising projections of lower first-quarter earnings, particularly by high-flying technology companies. Many experts wonder, therefore, how strong an economic recovery is underway. Although the Conference Board's latest survey showed a surge in consumer confidence, economists believe the rebound will be relatively weak at first.

Investors have been heartened that the Federal Reserve has sought to quell fears of higher interest rates by the drive to cut inflation and claiming that the recent bulge in money supply should moderate soon.

EEC in farm talks with US

From Bailey Morris Washington

European and American officials are busy working trying to resolve their agricultural trade dispute before next month's meeting of Western heads of states in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Neither party wants the dispute to overshadow the economic summit at which the United States is anxious to focus on East-West economic relations.

One formula under consideration at the sub-cabinet level would involve a freeze on subsidies by the European Community to be followed by gradual reductions in farm price supports.

Some progress was made by ministers who met in Washington last month for what was described as a last-ditch attempt to settle the dispute.

Although nothing definite was agreed to by ministers, enough progress was reported to have been made to encourage them to continue talks.

Because of the sensitive nature of the talks and the difficult political choices involved, it was agreed that there would be a virtual news blackout on the progress of the negotiations.

"We recognize that the Europeans have a very serious problem to resolve, especially in view of the political impact of their farmers. In France particularly, in the aftermath of the new austerity measures, the notion of a cutback for the farmers is going to be very difficult to sell," a US official said.

But the US team also warned the European delegation headed by Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp that Congress was likely to take matters into its own hands if tangible progress was not made soon.

Now diplomats are grappling with the question of what approach they should adopt in applying a freeze-related formula which must, in the end, be approved by heads of state.

The decision is whether to take a broad-based approach, applying the formula across-the-board or whether to adopt an approach advanced by Mr Peter Walker, the British Agricultural Minister, of applying it on a commodity-by-commodity basis.

The commodity-by-commodity approach, while attractive to many diplomats, is fraught with problems which could cause the entire set of negotiations to fall apart, thus setting the stage for a trade war some US officials believe.

New details emerged yesterday of the private, \$400m company that is being proposed to operate the controversial trans-atlantic steel deal.

The company, the brainchild of Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation until the end of August, would be formed from the Ravenscraig plant in Scotland and at least two other BSC operations, according to reports originating in the US.

The plan, which Mr MacGregor said last week had been jeopardized by premature publicity, involves the shipment of semi-finished steel slabs from Ravenscraig to United States Steel Corporation's works at Fairless, near Philadelphia. The project exceeds, about 2,000 workers will lose their jobs in Scotland and up to 3,000 at Fairless. Steel union leaders at both plants have opposed the

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Jonathan Davis

The Bank of England stuck out firmly against the trend to lower interest rates yesterday in a move designed to instil some caution in the markets and head off an over-hasty cut in bank base rates.

In the face of continuing pressure from the discount houses to cut its money market dealing rates for bills, the Bank refused to budge. It continued to operate at rates which are well above market rates, and with the discount houses reluctant to comply, the markets were left substantially short of funds.

Compared with a revised shortage of £700m, the Bank supplied only £465m of assistance to the discount market with the result that overnight interbank rates shot up to about 20 per cent yesterday afternoon. The markets are convinced that a half-point cut in bank

base rates to 10 per cent is imminent and the stock market rose sharply yesterday with the FT Index gaining 8.3 points to 672.2, a whisker off its record high.

However, the authorities are believed to favour caution until there is further evidence that oil prices have found their level. In particular it appears that a base rate cut was not thought welcome ahead of today's replies from the major oil companies to the British National Oil Corporation's pricing proposals.

The corporation has given the companies until the close of business today to reply to its proposed cuts of between 30 and 75 cents a barrel in North Sea prices for March, to follow the \$3-a-barrel cut proposed for February. The expectation in Whitehall and most quarters of the oil

industry is that the pricing proposals will be accepted, however reluctantly in some cases. This will establish a market price for North Sea oil of \$30 a barrel, against the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' reference price of \$29 a barrel.

The price of North Sea oil on the "spot market" firmed again yesterday, with North Sea Forties crude quoted at \$28.75 a

barrel, up 25 cents on the day. The proposed price for Forties crude oil is \$29.75 a barrel, so the differential between the spot and official prices has narrowed from about \$3 to \$1 a barrel since the latest Opec agreement was reached after marathon talks in London last month.

Market confidence that fears of an international oil price war are receding has been boosted by Nigeria's announcement that it will not regard the prices proposed by BNOC as undercutting Opec's agreement, despite its earlier warning that it would match any new North Sea price cut "cent for cent".

The major oil companies such as BP, Shell and Esso have been under pressure from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, not to press too hard for larger North Sea price cuts and thereby destabilize the market. Even if the North Sea prices are accepted, however, there is

no certainty that the price agreement will hold throughout the summer. BNOC has to face the problem of finding buyers for the last 100,000 barrels a day of oil that it trades, following the decision of Gulf Oil, previously its largest customer, to cut back sharply on its

liftings. The board is faced with demands for representation but apparently no proposals as to what Messrs Cogan and Swid plan to do with their stake. And for their part, the New York entrepreneurs have lost much of the goodwill necessary for running this sensitive business.

But this confusion does not necessarily justify all the responses. The staff and board are right to complain that General Felt has not made its intentions clear. It follows, however, that fears about how the traditional business might be affected by a takeover could be exaggerated.

Moreover, it is not obvious that developing other sides of Sotheby's business - perhaps by making more use of the name in a franchising operation - automatically harms the art auctioneering. It is difficult to believe that all signatories to the letter would leave Sotheby's if General Felt were to take control, and such threats unsettle clients, whatever impact they may have in New York.

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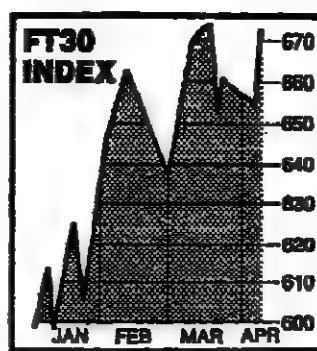
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Markets left short as authorities favour caution

Bank defies City pressure for lower interest rates



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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Sally White

Robens to be company president

The share price had been depressed recently by a large line of stock that the market took time to digest, and thus Morrison is looking under-

Turnover 220m p.a. Net final dividend 1.15p mkg 1.6p (1.4) Share price 174p Yield 1.3%

Supermarket group Wm Morrison has begun to develop a more conservative image

Croda would not have paid dividends of this size but for the

Turnover £307.1m (£277.7m)
Net final dividend 4p making 7p
(3.75p)
Share price 117p up 4p Yield 8.6%

Croda International, the

Laskeys increased profits from £1.1m to £2.8m, and this year's sales are reported to be good, particularly home com-

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Armed Steel	10 1/2	18 1/2	Goulds
Asarco	10 1/2	20 1/2	Goulds Inc
Asphalt Oil	10 1/2	20 1/2	Grace
Atlantic Richfield	41 1/2	20 1/2	Gl. Mfr & Pacifi
AVCO	30 1/2	21 1/2	Greyhound
A-00 Products	30 1/2	21 1/2	Grumman Corp
Bankers Nat N Y	40	21 1/2	Gulf Oil
Bank of America	21 1/2	21 1/2	Gulf & West
Bank of N Y	21 1/2	21 1/2	Houss B J.
Beaumont Foods	21 1/2	21 1/2	Hercules
Beaumont Steel	21 1/2	21 1/2	Honeywell
Boeing	40 1/2	21 1/2	I T Ind
			Imperial

Apr Apr

are also of sterling. Holidays are even well booked with domestic others.

Property fell back, at \$3.5m not expected to make much of a recovery this year. But betting and racecourse management brought in £17.8m against £14.3m, reflecting increased cost-cutting rather than a rise in market share, and the better weather.

Las Vegas increased profits form £1.1m to £2.8m, and this year's sales are reported to be good, particularly home computers.

Croda International
 the specialist chemicals group, has

this year could be possible, and the well-covered dividend should be increased as usual.

Croda Int.

Croda International
 Year to 26.12.82
 Pretax profit £15.04m (£10.13m)
 Stated earnings 7.92p (5.94p)
 Turnover £307.1m (£277.7m)
 Net total dividend 4p making 7p (3.75p)
 Share price 117p up 4p Yield 8.6%

Croda International,
 the specialist chemicals group, has

SUGAR	Y'day's	Previous	LONDON GOLD
	Close		SUGARS
Oct	157.25-157.48	150.00-150.80	Oct
Nov	157.25-157.48	150.00-150.80	Nov
Dec	157.25-157.48	150.00-150.80	Dec
Jan	157.25-157.48	150.00-150.80	Jan
Feb	157.25-157.48	150.00-150.80	Feb
March	157.25-157.48	150.00-150.80	March
April	157.25-157.48	150.00-150.80	April
Sales: 3.743 tons			Sales: 776 tons

WOOL	Y'day's	Previous	GRAM
	Close		LONDON GOLD
Oct	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	Oct
Nov	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	Nov
Dec	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	Dec
Jan	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	Jan
Feb	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	Feb
March	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	March
April	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	April
May	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	May
June	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	June
July	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	July
Aug	402.00-402.00	402.00-402.00	Aug
Sales: 91 tons			Sales: 91 tons

SOYABEAN MEAL	Y'day's	Previous	LONDON GOLD
	Close		SUGARS
Oct	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	Oct
Nov	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	Nov
Dec	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	Dec
Jan	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	Jan
Feb	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	Feb
March	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	March
April	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	April
May	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	May
June	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	June
July	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	July
Aug	141.00-141.00	141.00-141.00	Aug
Sales: 99 tons			Sales: 99 tons

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE	Y'day's	Previous	LONDON GOLD
	Close		SUGARS
Oct	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	Oct
Nov	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	Nov
Dec	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	Dec
Jan	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	Jan
Feb	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	Feb
March	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	March
April	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	April
May	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	May
June	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	June
July	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	July
Aug	344.00-44.80	344.00-44.80	Aug
Sales: 99 tons			Sales: 99 tons

Previous **LONDON CO**[illegible][illegible]

الحمد لله رب العالمين

The man who taught economics with humour

Luddite Smoke

May 21 1950

A new machine, introduced as an experiment into a London tobacco factory, can cut and pack 1,500 cigarettes a minute in one process. Normal production of machines now generally in use 850 cigarettes a minute. "We do not," said Mr Percy Belcher, general secretary of the Tobacco Workers' Union, "want to interfere with progress or with more efficient methods of production, but unless the workers in the factories get something out of the new methods - their share of the profits - we are not prepared to see

these methods introduced without some kind of a fight."

That, although somewhat belligerent, sounds reasonable. But is it? On the assumption that the cutting and packing is of the same standard as previously, the change represents a 76 per cent increase in productivity on that process. Who is responsible for this and to whom should the benefit accrue?

I can appreciate that the claim of the inventor to have contributed to the result is incontestable. I can appreciate the contribution of the people whose savings financed the construction and installation of the machine. But in respect of the people directly operating the machine I would want to know in what way their particular activities are affected.

Would they be required to exert any more foot-pounds of energy? Would they be required to furnish any more

energy, or whatever it may be, of brain skill? The job might even be rendered easier, in which case brute logic would suggest a reduction, not an increase, in wages.

Does an increase in productivity brought about solely by the machine invariably provoke a demand by the associated worker for increased money remuneration on the grounds of equity? If a chauffeur-driven owner gets a new and faster model does the chauffeur immediately react "That means we shall cover more ground a day. I want a rise?"

It is quite likely that he will tell his employer affably: "Well, sir, I was getting a bit tired of the old cough-and-spit, begging your pardon, but that's what the other fellows called it. I was thinking of leaving, but now that you've got this spanking Flying Comorant, I'm staying. If ever you

think of getting a Sizzling Buzzard I don't mind taking a five bob cut to help out. They're a bit expensive."

Or take that estimable lady who does for one in the home twice or thrice weekly. Hitherto she may have gone on her hands and knees to polish the floor. If you treat yourself to an electric floor polisher does she immediately step up her claim from 2s. 6d. an hour to 3s. on the ground that she is now enabled to cover more of the house per diem? It is much more likely that she will hail the relief of her limbs by embarking on a medical history of the Binks family, including the obstetrical details which, in my case, always induce a profound quiescence.

For which particular workers in the tobacco industry would Mr Belcher claim a cut into the profits derived from the new machine? Would he confine it to the people directly operating the machine? What about the

machine minder? What about the warehousemen who deal with the faster flow of output? What about the typists in the office, who, after all, are in the firm?

The fact is that the invention is a cost-reducing innovation, and the ultimate result - under competitive conditions, the speedy result - should be the diffusion of the benefits over the community at large following the repercussions on the price of cigarettes. On Mr Belcher's thesis I could stake a claim for using the lift at the office. I calculate it gives me five minutes more at my desk per day. Something like 20 hours over at the year. The firm must make a profit out of this extra working time obtained through the lift installation. Remind me to walk slowly upstairs in future and to sit doing nothing until my heart stops thumping.

Off the Rails

June 18 1950

The *Railway Review*, the official organ of the National Union of Railwaymen, very sharply, and quite properly, takes me up for the article entitled "Luddite Smoke" that I wrote here four weeks ago. In it I contested the assumption that the workers directly concerned with the operation of a new and more efficient machine (a cigarette-making machine in this case) were forthwith entitled to increased monetary remuneration as representing their claim on the increased productivity.

The *Review* was, perhaps justifiably, not impressed by my argument and

regarded my examples and analogies as far-fetched or irrelevant. It dismissed these summarily and very sensibly seized on a passage which, it declared, approached the real problem.

I had written: "The ultimate result (of this cost-reducing innovation) - under competitive conditions the speedy result - should be the diffusion of the benefits over the community at large following the repercussions on the price of cigarettes."

The *Review* justly retorts with this challenge: "The deadly truth of the position is, however, that none of the suppositions in this phrase has anything to do with reality. Competitive society never worked to that end - if it came about at all, then it happened through the exclusion and at large, the workers concerned... Why - one might ask - has competitive society never tried to introduce legislation to safeguard the achievement of those ends, so often declared by its protagonists as being the real ones, i.e.,

that of diffusing the benefits of progress over society at large? The answer is, of course that a society in which the means of production are privately owned does not and cannot work like that."

Now it is remarkable that this should appear in a railway publication. The railway has been the stock example of an invention the benefits of which were diffused over society at large in a swift, almost revolutionary, manner. The illustrations are so commonplace that, for fear of banality, I hesitate to quote them. If all the railways of the world were torn up tomorrow would the standard of living of the ordinary workers be unaffected? Or would it suffer a catastrophic fall?

We used to hear these things in the kindergarten. Teacher would take out a box of matches and explain that Queen Elizabeth with all her power could not exercise such command over fire. The ordinary worker can buy a suit today

and preen himself. "Not Solomon in all his glory..." A working girl can pull on a pair of silk stockings and feel sorry for the Queen of Sheba. The benefits of the invention of artificial silk have not been diffused over the population at large? Brother, you've led a sheltered life.

But this diffusion is not a matter of centuries, but of decades, even years. The trade unions are always complaining that cost-of-living indices are out of date because they do not include new products absorbed and established into the ordinary household budget. Get the White Paper on the Interim Index of Retail Prices which was substituted in 1947 for the old cost-of-living index, and compare the list of 1914 items with the new list - radio sets, cycles, prams, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, electric and gas heating and cooking appliances, all the legitimate prerogative of the working-class purse. That's a lift-up from tallow candles and black woolen stockings.

With all respect to the *Railway Review*, its argument can be reduced to the farcical. In 12 million homes of Britain people can switch a knob and listen to a voice emanating from heaven knows where. "My friends, most of you are excluded from the benefits of invention and innovation. You are the victims of a hold-up attributable to capitalist malignity. Were it not for that you could hear what I am saying. We are now switching you over to Sydney for a running commentary on the Test Match."

Thousands of Britons have served out East and seen poverty at its starkest. I know their reaction. We would put up with that. The correct comment? "Why don't we in Britain have to put up with that?" "Will the writer in the *Railway Review*, who calls himself 'Economist', please live up to his pseudonym by answering that?"

Industrial notebook

When is success not a success?

Harland and Wolff, the Belfast shipyard which gave the world the *Cambria* and (albeit briefly) the *Titanic*, has been bailed out by taxpayers' money for so long that it is hard to remember the last time it stood on its own two feet. Despite nationalisation and £260m of Government aid since the end of the 1940s, the 6,000 jobs that remain of the peak post-war workforce of 23,000 are - at £3,000 or so a man each year - among the most heavily subsidised anywhere in the country.

It was, therefore, not without some irony a few days ago that assorted guests from Belfast, the oil industry and the press gathered in the famous yard for the naming of a new oil tanker called *British Skill*. Her sister ship, one of four that British Petroleum is having built in British yards and which Harland and Wolff is due to deliver by the end of this year, is being called *British Success*.

For ships that are being built at a loss for an owner who does not really want them, this nomenclature is splendidly ironic. If not downright absurd. Only last summer, BP was announcing the scrapping of a third of its tanker fleet on the new familiar grounds that Opec and recession have taxed the giant crude and product carriers into expensive and obsolete white elephants.

It is impossible not to be pessimistic about Harland and Wolff's prospects. Tankers are the yard's speciality and nobody sees oil demand rising much, if at all, over the rest of

the century, although replacement orders will be coming through in some numbers by the end of the decade. In the short term, the yard has nothing on its books beyond the spring of next year, although Mr Joan Parker, the new chief executive, is hopeful that he can win a £70m order from Blue Star to see him through until 1985.

Inevitably, more jobs will go at Harland this year, but it will still be a major surprise if the Government does anything but bail out the yard again when this year's financial arrangements are announced in the coming weeks. Losses for the year just ended are likely to be at least in the £10-12m range.

But Harland and Wolff remains the largest single employer in Northern Ireland, and it is an election year. Were it not for that, the yard's economic spin-off argument that helped to save British Leyland.

One £25m BP tanker may have lost the country a few million pounds in subsidies, but it enabled Harland and Wolff to place £22m of orders with 550 suppliers, 90 per cent of them British. They at least were kept afloat.

The real tragedy for the shipbuilding industry is that the problem is an international one that will be solved only by international cooperation - and there are precious few signs of that.

Jonathan Davis

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158	117		Ass Bnd Ind CULS	149	-	10.0	6.7				
74	37		Airgroup Group	62	-	6.1	9.8	17.7	17.7		
46	31		Armstrong & Whitcomb	31	-	4.3	13.9	3.5	6.1		
314	197		Barton 123	314	+2	11.4	3.6	13.2	16.6		
118	100		CCL 11.0% Conv Pref	138	+1	15.7	11.3				
270	210		Cindico Group	210	-	17.6	8.4				
84	52		Deborah Services	52	-	6.0	11.5	3.4	9.3		
94	75		Frank Horell	94	-			7.8	8.4		
92	90		Frank Horell Pr Ord 87	92	-	8.7	9.4	10.3	11.0		
83	61		Frederick Parfiter	62	-	7.1	11.5	3.9	6.2		
55	34		George Blair	34	-	7.3	9.4	5.9	12.3		
109	74		Ind Proc Castings	156	-	13.7	10.1		12.4		
158	100		Int Conv Pref	142	-	7.5	5.3	4.4	9.9		
143	84		Jackson Group	203	+1	9.6	4.7	14.8	16.5		
203	111		James Burrough	150	+2	20.0	13.3	1.6	23.8		
250	148		Robert Jenkins	69	-	5.7	8.3	9.0	10.8		
83	54		Serations "A"	112	-	11.4	10.2	5.0	8.6		
107	112		Todday & Carbal	25	-	9.6	1.8				
29	21		Unilock Holdings	65	-	6.4	9.8	4.6	6.7		
85	84		Walter Alexander	26	+1	17.1	6.6	4.0	8.3		
270	214		W. S. Yates								

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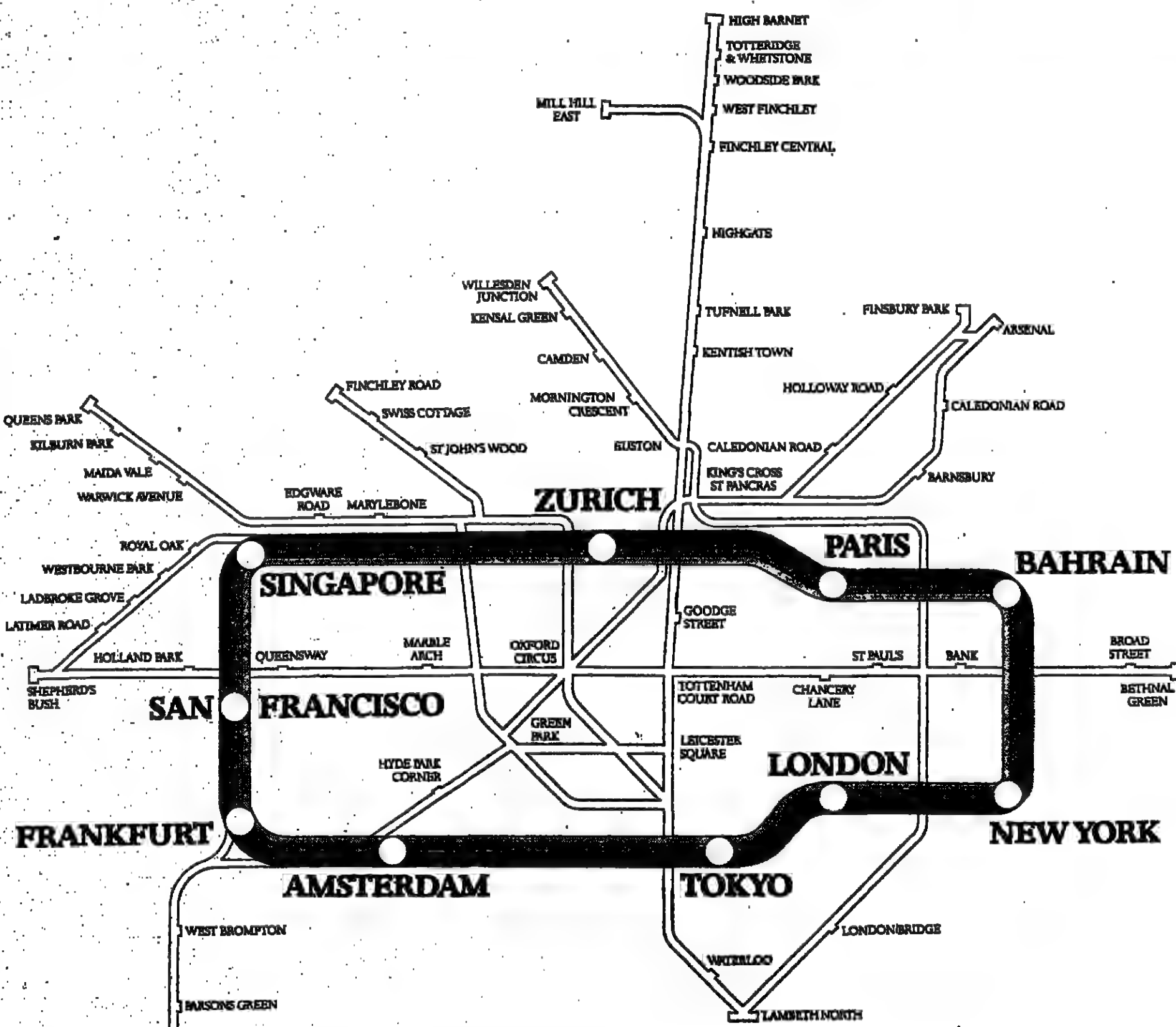
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Faldo the early bird gets flying start before big guns can fire

From John Hennessey, Golf Correspondent, Augusta

Nick Faldo, the first of four British golfers on the tee, made a fine start to the Masters today. He completed his round in 70 strokes, two under par for the 3,635 yards, Augusta National course. The leader among the early starters was Jack Renner, on 67. No other player was better placed than Faldo, but some of the big guns, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson and the holder, Craig Stadler, among them, were still waiting their turn.

Faldo's opening strokes were tokened a man devoid of first-tee nerves, he refused to be intimidated by the bunker guarding the shortest line to the green and carried it by all of 30 yards. A safe hole there was just the start he needed to establish his self-confidence. Thus encouraged, he set about reducing the long second (555 yards) to four.

He followed his tee shot with a two-iron that left him a little put to the green and from 12 feet he judged the swing of at least three feet to perfection. The third hole tested his fibre, for he left his first putt four feet short, but he was not wavering on the second. A three-iron found the 205 yards fourth, but his putt slipped past.

The fifth hole brought his first setback through underclubbing. He took a six iron when clearly a five was needed and from the Valley of Sin in front of the green he putted hugely past the hole. There could be no escape from a three putt, a disappointment that threatened him at the next, for he again took one club too few and his seven iron left him a chip up the steep slope. This time he just managed to approach with a three-putt but it was not his nemesis.

Two good woods put him close to the eighth green (535 yards uphill) but the first putt failed to drop, and another possible birdie got away at the ninth when he struck a 10 foot putt with little conviction. This is a notoriously difficult green, but Faldo might have hoped at least to have thrashed it. He turned for home at level par, when he might easily have been two-under without too much in the way of lucky chance. He immediately went into the red again, which is good news for any golfer, with a brilliant three at the tenth, 485 yards long but rated a par four because of the downhill terrain.

Faldo was now striking the ball quite handsomely, but his approach on the flat area to the left of the fairway and clipped a five-iron to



Faldo: Masterful control of first-tee nerves

which seems almost certain, the championship committee will take other considerations into account in filling the gaps. The 12 previous winners are: Arnold Palmer (US), 1964; Gary Player (SA), 1965; 1966, 1968, 1971, 1973; Bob Charles (NZ), 1969; Jack Nicklaus (US), 1970; Hale Irwin (USA), 1974, 1975; David Graham (Australia), 1976; Graeme Marsh (Australia), 1977; Isao Aoki (Japan), 1978; Bill Rogers (US), 1979; Greg Norman (Australia), 1980; Severiano Ballesteros (Spain), 1981, 1982.

It is, of course, a glittering field, consisting in all 46 "major" titles, accepting the American definition of their own PGA championships. Mark McCormack, of the promoting International Management Group, though he could be sure of a "95-100 per cent acceptance", in essence, that means he is certain of everyone except Nicklaus who nowadays is a free agent, no longer falling within the 1964-1979 period. McCormack said yesterday that Nicklaus was favourably disposed towards the tournament, but would not be able to commit himself until certain domestic duties had been resolved in September.

In the event of duplications,

Pecci the slayer of the boy wonders

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Lisbon

The David and Goliath story went all wrong in the Portuguese championships yesterday. Jimmy Arias, concealing seven titles and more than three stones to Victor Pecci, who is also nine years older, was beaten 7-6, 6-2. Moreover, Arias was fined more than £300 for what is only described in the rules as an "undesirable act".

Pecci, who has only 18th birthday, was not a boy wonder, but a boy wonder, and his reaction to frustration and adversity was that of a boy rather than a man.

In view of his age and American origins, Arias played some admirably designed if often untidy clay-court tennis. He varied his pace and length and used the angles, drop, and lob as if he were a child.

But after a nine-minute first game had gone against him, Pecci soon reminded us that he was runner-up for the French championship four years ago. He won five consecutive games for the match.

The difference between the Pecci of 1979 and 1983 lies largely in confidence and maturity. Perhaps the view from the top made him dizzy. For a moment he must also be wondering if he has been relegated to junior competition. He has beaten Gorgi and Arias, both aged eight, and must now play Mats Wilander, who is also eighteen.

Yesterday Wilander learned that he was the "big man" on the block for his sportsmanship in 1982, in addition to a previous "best achievement" award for his French championship. But he was given a severe English lesson by Carlos Costa, before winning 7-6, 6-2.

In the first set Costa led 5-3 and had six set points. But Wilander has forgotten how to lose. European clay in 1983 is a different matter. In yesterday's third set he lost only thirteen points.

Wilander, Jose Higueras, and Yannick Noah are the only players seeded to reach the last eight who have actually done so. This can be construed as a remarkable example of communal carelessness, because the winner will receive more than £25,000 (in terms of pounds per match won, that means the Portuguese championship is worth more than Wimbledon).

The beaten seeds, in the order of the draw, are: Boris Becker, Manuel Panatta, Andrei Gorn, and Henrik Sundstrom. The last eight will be Huguens, Slobodan Grcic, and Andrei Gorn.

Wilander and Piment, a qualifier, are the only seeds left. In the last four at Monte Carlo, he has been back with only one hand, moreover, he is coached by an Australian who lives in Portugal. He was beaten 6-7, 6-1, 6-1 by Bazzani, but hardly anyone had heard of Sundstrom, because his advance has been so sudden.

Sundstrom knew that he had to get to the final, but he is so overconfident that he did not always advance when it was most discreet to do so. But he played a good first set in which he showed much more than his playing record. He was a kind of force on the backhand, and in his volleying, after an erratic start in both areas.

He could not maintain his level of performance long enough to frustrate his opponent, but he was the last four at Monte Carlo, and he obviously set up with his temporary status in qualifying competitors.

Where so many of the other more advanced players have found it difficult to handle the up-and-coming competitors, Surrey's Shelley Walpole has shown an iron discipline in dispensing with three consecutive opponents in the first round of the Junior hard court championships, sponsored by Prudential at Wimbledon.

Her opponent yesterday morning was the 18-year-old world champion, defeated the Leicestershire girl 6-2, she headed for a quiet practice at Queen's Club in preparation for her match today with Belinda Bencis, the current 18-and-under covered court champion.

In the other half of the draw, Siobhan Nicholson will face Sarah Sullivan, who yesterday had a memorable upset over the second seed, Rima Elmi. In six meetings over the past eight months, Miss Sullivan had never won so much as a set from the under 18 girl. But on a day when the pressure was preparing to deliver the prize, Sullivan played more confidently by the minute, ultimately winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Tension was apparent on both sides in the three set affair in which Miss Nicholson defeated Jane Wood 6-2, 4-6, 6-1. There was some fine play early on, but what made the difference in the end was that where Miss Nicholson contrived to steer the ball in court, Miss Wood was damagingly wild.

In the Boys' singles, there was a certain amount of world class in the match in which Ben Knapp defeated Jonathan Southcombe 6-4, 7-5. Southcombe was at one point warned for "verbal abuse" but he was preparing to deliver the prize, Sullivan played more confidently by the minute, ultimately winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

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World Cup echoes ring round Europe

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Almost half of those who attended the world summit meeting in Madrid last July are expected to gather again during the main European conference in Athens in May. Juventus, with six representatives of the Italian national team, and Hamburg, including four of the West German squad, are more than half way to reaching the European Cup final.

Juventus, who embarrassed Aston Villa, are 2-0 up against Wimbledon. Liverpool's conquerors, So. for the Poles, a wing and a prayer? Pope John Paul II, an avid supporter, could meet one requirement for the home leg of the semi-final in the fortnight. He will not be another of their countrymen, Boniek, will not again supply the other.

In Turin, they call Boniek "the invisible man", but as against Villa he emerged from relative obscurity on Wednesday night to damage the ambitions of his former colleagues. Only three times before have Juventus yielded such an advantage, and two of those defeats, in 1958 and 1960, are such ancient statistics that they can be discounted.

The Polish champions will not need to be reminded of the more recent round of the UEFA Cup. Last season they won 3-1 at home two seasons ago to draw 4-4 on aggregate and go through to the third round of the UEFA Cup.

The awesome defence of Juventus is unlikely to allow history to be repeated. Real Sociedad, who knocked out Celtic in the second round of the UEFA Cup, must maintain an attack that is led by Hrubesch, moulded by Magath and supported by Kalit, three powerful internationalists.

Hamburg, who drew 1-1 in San Sebastian, have so far scored 13 goals and conceded merely four. Nor are echoes of last summer confined to the European Cup competition. Stuttgart, who beat West Germany's sweeper, was absent during the 2-2 draw in the first leg at

Wales will stage Britain's first ever Sunday international when they meet Brazil on June 12. The prestige friendly will have a special significance, it was the only convenient day in which to play the European tour.

Alan Evans, the Welsh FA secretary, said that he had no fears of opposition or complaints on religious grounds. "We have chosen a 3pm kick-off to avoid clashing with religious services," he said. Nialan Park, Cardiff, is being tipped as the likely venue.

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Stunned by the Scottish storm

By Hugh Taylor

The highest compliment to Aberdeen following their devastating 5-1 victory over Watford in the first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final at Pittodrie, came from a stunned Belgian coach, Ernst Knevezek, who said: "No one in Europe could take four goals off Aberdeen. It will be two or three years before I can have my team able to play in that kind of fashion."

Just as the Scottish team, Moloni, the assistant coach of Real Madrid, whose team looks likely to meet Aberdeen in the final at Goteborg on May 11. He flew back to Spain yesterday, where he will start even distinguished Real Madrid, whose 2-2 draw at Austria Vienna almost certainly ensures that they will reach the final.

Still searching for the words to describe an Aberdeen display that was awesome in its ambition, power and determination, he said: "That strength - it was unbelievable that a British team could play a version of total football. If we met in the final they will make it very difficult for us."

Certainly Aberdeen's play sent a tremor of fear down the spines of all the foreign observers, the only criticism coming from the former England manager, Sir Alf Ramsey, who sniped: "I thought Aberdeen used to play at 100 miles an hour, so I don't think this is over and done with just yet."

What the priest of method failed to realise, however, was the fact that where Aberdeen's style at Pittodrie was still as wild as at stamens in the Scottish club's new conception of total football. The manager, Alec Ferguson, said his outstanding players, Simpson and Bell, whose astonishing forays from deep positions were the key to victory, "can run all night."

Such is the depth of the Aberdeen pool of bright young talent that the manager has players of equal calibre on the sidelines in Cooper, McMaster, Watson and Hewitt who have brought a new complexion to the Scottish game. While the Belgian coach is convinced that he is over, "Aberdeen" made us look like schoolboys" - the cautious Ferguson said: "We won't let this result go to our heads and we will still have to be careful in the second leg."

Although they have reached the semi-final, Watford were a disappointing side. Nevertheless, few teams in Europe could have stood up to the Aberdeen assault, for which four out of five of the most accomplished artists Strachan and Weir, were not needed as Bell and Simpson assumed Herculean control, showing that ball winning still has an important part to play in modern football.

Certainly no Scottish side has ever recorded a more impressive win in European competition than Aberdeen, who are confident they can play even better in the second leg in Belgium in a fortnight.

League Club will be paid a further £2,500 for every 10 matches he plays, up to a total of 50.

● Scarborough, who will host the fourth round semi-final, are to stage next season's schoolboy international between England and Northern Ireland.

● Nine leagues - the Eastern Counties, Hampshire, Hellenic, Kent, Midlands Combination, Sussex, United Counties, West Midlands and Western - are to act as "seed" for the Southern League. Four clubs, selected on the basis of league position and ground facilities, will be promoted each season.

really made him work and he did plenty of sprints on his own. He has kept a reasonable amount of fitness playing in testimonials, but he needs sprint work and it should not be long before he is fully fit. Obviously his absence has put him back to square one, but he is determined to get back into regular action.

San Megson, his manager, said: "George came through it well. We

George Best made up for lost time when he returned to Bournemouth yesterday. Best, who has missed two third division matches during his week's absence, was put through a rigorous training session and then volunteered for extra work after other players had gone home.

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BOXING: THE HIGH-FLYING BUGNER AND THE LANCASTER Bomber

Lamb with the claws of a wolf

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

If the bone-crushing handshake of the soft-spoken Alan Lamb is any indication, Clontarf, the style of Jim Watt came down to London to finish off his preparations at the Thomas A'Becker, Russell Square, the laundrette and the room upstairs. So if I don't win after this fight, I'm not coming back.

But the championship is different stuff to anyone the Lancaster man has met. That is why it is not surprising that Harry Burgess, Lamb's manager, has taken the precaution of having the ring nearly all the packed house of 3,000 will be rooting for the local man. Mr Burgess said: "Alan has sold £10,000 worth of tickets himself and there'll be people coming down even from Scotland."

Lamb, who feels that McKenzie might be inhibited from using his best punch, the body shot, because of two disqualifications, will sidekick the pugilist the European title, aims to box the champion all the way. "He'll have to pin me down to win," Lamb said. "But he won't be able to because even if he does, I'm a champion he has had too many

fighting and I am comparatively fresh. That will be the deciding factor." Lamb said. "That is the style of Jim Watt came down to London to finish off his preparations at the Thomas A'Becker, Russell Square, the laundrette and the room upstairs. So if I don't win after this fight, I'm not coming back."

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UK players in last 16

By Richard Eaton

It was a splendidly English day yesterday. Two younger home players, Jamie Hickox and Christy Willstrop, came through to the last 16 of the British Open championships, sponsored by Davis and Tate, with two others, David Pearson and Martin Bodin, who had unexpected wins the day before, attempting to join them.

The perplex court, which has whiter walls than any previous final, court, and the cozy compactness of the Derby Assembly Rooms caused the setting to be widely acclaimed the best ever. Inside, spectators were told they were allowed to take in beer to watch the English success outside, it was a little more restrained.

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Creating a new record

Kuala Lumpur (AFP) - A record 368 players and 46 officials from 23 countries, together with 30 international women umpires and a dozen senior officials from the International Hockey Federation (IHF), will take part in the 15-day championships here on Sunday for the World Cup and Intercontinental Cup.

The World Cup will see the 12 top teams battle it out for the leading placings, while the Intercontinental Cup will feature a further 11 countries trying to break into the top ranks.

It was decided to bring the women's World Cup along the lines of the men's event with the introduction of an Intercontinental Cup for teams of lesser standing.

The World Cup games will be played exclusively on Astro Turf at the Tun Razak stadium. Twelve teams are involved with West Germany, the defending champions, drawn in pool "B" with Argentina, Canada, England, New Zealand and the Soviet Union. Pool "A" is made up of the Netherlands, Australia, India, Scotland, United States and Wales.

The two top teams in each group

The two top teams in each group

Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

BMW heavyweight that pulls its punch

For some months there have been stories circulating on the motor industry's overblown grapevine that American owners of BMW 5-series cars have been plagued by a mysterious problem. Engines have been cutting out at 4,800 rpm, nearly 2,000 rpm below their peak. It was only a momentary loss of power. As soon as the revolutions fall by a couple of hundred, back it came. The cause would seem obvious: the engine cut-out designed to prevent over-revving was coming in much too early.

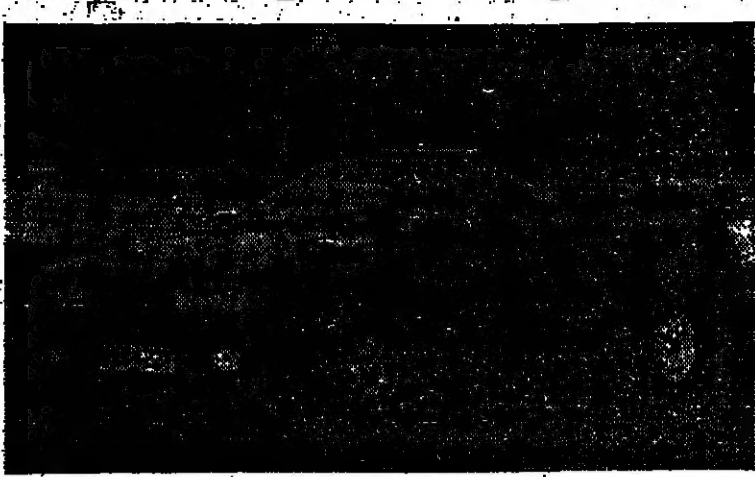
But when owners asked for it to be reset they were assured that there was no mistake. This was a new, low-revving BMW engine. The explanation was itself a shock. The Bavarian company's success was founded on its reputation as a manufacturer of fast, sporty saloons with one of the smoothest and most revving engines in the business in the six-cylinder M20 fitted to the 5-series.

Now the full explanation is out. For more than a year American and Japanese buyers of BMW 5-series cars have been driving the company's new six-cylinder engine, which, as its Greek name implies, is designed primarily for efficiency and economy.

British motorists will soon be able to test their own verdict on this engine. The new BMW 525e, which goes on sale this month, is a six-cylinder engine with a 2,693 cc version of the M20 which develops maximum torque at only 3,250 rpm. There is nothing remarkable in the way this is achieved. It is not simply a detuned engine but one that has been carefully modified to produce the power of a slightly smaller engine at half its normal revs.

So why the fuss? The answer is equally simple. Because a large engine develops its power at lower revs and that does have significant losses, and that is the basic of fuel consumption. The so-called "valve vibration limit" - when the valves no longer follow the cams - is lower. This in turn permits the use of soft valve springs to reduce friction between the rocker arms and the cams. For the same reason the camshaft bearings have been reduced from seven to four and the piston rings have less tension.

Together with reduced overlap in valve timing and unusually long inlet manifolds, this provides particularly good filling of the cylinders with fuel-air mixture.



The Volkswagen Scirocco GTi: sleeker with improved handling

On the road the BMW 525e is the nearest BMW has yet come to reproducing the relaxed flexibility of a Mercedes. A few years ago BMW executives would have felt insulted by such an assertion. Today they admit freely that having established themselves as one of the world's leading manufacturers of sporty saloons they are now pushing into Mercedes end of the market.

In a two-hour drive on the autobahn and interconnecting mountain roads around Munich I was never conscious of the car's primary role as a fuel miser. It was apparent that revs did not equate to power, so a change in driving tactics produced equally quick travel but in a delightfully relaxing way.

The BMW 525e will be sold in Britain only with the new four-speed automatic gear box employing an overdrive fourth and a lock-up clutch to reduce torque converter losses. This was the version I tried and it was noticeable that the car engine and the new automatic form an ideal combination.

BMW claim fuel consumption figures of 24.6 mpg for the urban cycle, 43 mpg at a steady 56 mph and 37.7 mpg at 75 mph, a considerable improvement on the 20, 39.2 and 31 mpg respectively for the standard engine 525i.

Scirocco GTi

Volkswagen's Scirocco began life as a coupe version of the Golf. Surprisingly, it was launched ahead of the main model to test the water with a lower volume product. Styled by Giugiaro but last year restyled in-house, the Scirocco's

popularity in Britain has never ceased to amaze the marketing men at VAG (UK). The Milton Keynes based company which handles all VW imports.

They have consistently underestimated sales since it first appeared in 1974. Year after year they got it wrong by as much as 20 per cent. This year they are keeping their fingers crossed and forecasting that 8,300 will be sold here. To put that into perspective, it compares with a forecast for Golf sales of about 23,000.

Why is the Scirocco so popular here? With the old model it was hard to understand why anyone should prefer it to the much more accommodating and, in my view, better looking Golf. It was popular in the extreme, as if to proclaim to all that it was different from the Golf.

The new Scirocco is a different proposition. It is sleeker and longer by a full 4in and has almost 2in extra head room. Volkswagen was one of the earliest car makers to realize the importance of aerodynamic efficiency and it shows increasingly in their latest offerings. Scirocco is now 10 per cent more efficient with a drag coefficient of 0.38.

Its effect on the car's overall performance, economy and handling is best put to the test in the top of the range Scirocco GTi. Like its better known brother, the Golf GTi, once the terror of the autobahn but now reluctantly giving way to muscle-bound turbo-charged youngsters, it has just acquired a 1.8 litre fuel injected engine in place of the original 1.6 litre unit.

On the road the most immediate difference is the increase in low

speed torque. Volkswagen's GTi has never been a high-revving, inflexible buzzbox like some of the competition, but the extra 200cc's have made a big contribution to relaxed driving. It is now possible to drive the Scirocco GTi like a much bigger engine car, changing up at ridiculously low revs, incidentally saving still in the world of cars. Only recently I criticized VW brakes for their lack of feel, necessitating heavy footed braking, yet here was a VW with feel and pedal pressure absolutely to my taste. Perhaps it denotes a change of heart by VW engineers who in the past seemed to favour physical effort.

One of the problems with some lightweight, high powered cars is their reaction at speed to motorway crosswinds. The Scirocco's new smoother outline has improved this aspect of its handling. It was put to the test in a fast return trip to Lancashire recently when gale force crosswinds combined with heavy rain made conditions atrocious. I could feel the buffeting all the time but even emerging from the protection of a heavy truck - a notorious danger spot in high winds - the Scirocco moved only inches off line and was always under control.

The five-speed close ratio gearbox - the one now fitted to the MG Maestro - is positive and light to operate. Even when snatched through to achieve optimum acceleration times it was still impossible to beat the synchronicity.

Fuel consumption figures are again coming under critical scrutiny from organizations like the AA who do not like the present government-supervised system of obtaining them on equipment provided by the car manufacturers and not an independent body. It is a fact that it is virtually impossible to achieve the miles per gallon quoted in official sales literature under normal road conditions. I returned approximately 34 mpg, a figure that can easily be improved by only marginally slower motoring.

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Price: £8,004
Engine: 1780cc fuel injected
Performance: Maximum speed 118 mph, 0-50 mph 8.3 seconds.
Official consumption: Urban 26.8 mpg, 56 mph 51.4 mpg, 75 mph 38.7 mpg.
Length 13.28m
Insurance: Group 7.

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Mercedes

450 SLC 1979

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Performance: Maximum speed 118 mph, 0-50 mph 8.3 seconds.
Official consumption: Urban 26.8 mpg, 56 mph 51.4 mpg, 75 mph 38.7 mpg.
Length 13.28m
Insurance: Group 7.

Model: Vw Scirocco GTi
Price: £8,004
Engine: 1780cc fuel injected
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Official consumption: Urban 26.8 mpg, 56 mph 51.4 mpg, 75 mph 38.7 mpg.
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Police searching the man who gave himself up, while Patrick Beecher, aged 12, who was held hostage for 22 hours is led away.

Boy safe as police end siege of flat

From Ronald Kershaw, Leeds

A siege in which a man allegedly held a boy aged 12 hostage for more than 22 hours ended at lunchtime yesterday when police officers entered a house in Lupton Avenue, Harehills, Leeds, and led out the boy, Patrick Beecher, of Leeds.

The police said in a statement: "A man has been arrested in connection with the incident at Harehills. Both the man and the boy are uninjured, indeed no one was hurt in the incident. The attitude of the police has been one of quietness and negotiation with the man. That has led to a successful conclusion. Armed police had surrounded the house since lunchtime on Wednesday. No cars were fired. The man, wearing a black leather jacket was led from the house, spread eagled in the road, searched and taken away in a police van. Superintendent Peter Smalley had made several visits to the

front door of the house before being invited inside. A few minutes before Patrick was released, the police sent a fish and chip lunch to the first floor flat where he was being held. It was one of several food packages sent inside during the morning.

Mr Smalley then reappeared with the boy holding his hand. The officer took him across the road to a bus shelter to be reunited with his father.

A few minutes later a man appeared at the doorway to the flat. He was led out by a police officer who, it is believed, was armed. The police had been stationed outside the house all night. Mr Ronald Gregory, West Yorkshire's chief constable, went to the house yesterday morning and ordered his officers to sit and wait. He said: "We are anxious to end this incident without injury to anyone."

SDP leaders told to clarify policies

By John Winder

The leadership of the Social Democratic Party comes in for implied criticism in a leading article in its own party newspaper, *The Social Democrat*, published yesterday.

The article, unsigned, but generally believed to be party headquarters, has been written by the paper's editor, Mr Roger Carroll, who was on holiday, and unavailable for comment yesterday says that Social Democrats are entitled to look to the party leadership

for strong, clear, unforgotten formulations of policy. Earlier in the article, the writer says that the alternative to spelling out clear policies, on the contentious issues as well as on the easy ones, is to allow Mrs Margaret Thatcher to paint the SDP as a soft option.

The article is headed: "The truth" followed by: "Where the SDP goes from here." "Here" is Darlington where the by-election underlined a serious problem for the SDP, according to the writer: the volatility of

the polls in general and of their support in particular. The body of support which sticks to the party through thick and thin is not enough to win elections. They need also to attract the more mercurial body of opinion turned off by the old parties and cautiously ready to turn to the SDP - but only says the article, if they harden their message and express it in terms that relate to electors' lives and hopes.

"When we give them a bland or negative message they are all too likely to drift back to their old Labour or Conservative allegiance."

The writer calls on the party to spell out the Social Democrat vision in popular terms. That would involve some hard choices, for example on defence and on the market economy.

The council elections next month are seen as an opportunity to crank up the election machine and to show the electorate that the SDP is more than a television party.

Return of the Keren

Continued from page 1

Seamen's union leaders clashed with the Government last night over ministerial hints that the Armed Forces could be used in industrial disputes of the kind involving the Keren (Paul Routledge writes).

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, said in a radio interview: "We are going to get on with our job and do what we have to do." Asked whether he would take similar action again, he said: "I think you can take it that we will keep the armed services going."

"I do not think it would be right to imagine for one second that the armed forces in any sphere of activity, particularly where welfare or security is at stake, are going to be pushed around."

MPs favour June poll

Continued from page 1

The Institute argues that the Government should not restrict its reforming zeal to the "not unimportant and understandably popular" proposals debated in the Green Paper.

The feeling among Conservative MPs that an election in June is most likely to give the best possible result was gaining ground last week as they left for the short Easter break.

During this week, many of them will be sounding out their constituency party leaders and if a strong feeling shows that local parties are ready for the fray, well organized in the constituencies which have been most heavily affected by boundary changes, and confident of winning, then pressure may well be put on the Prime Minister next week to decide on an early poll.

Letter from Moscow

Videos, with love from the West

The image on the screen is blurred and grainy, but you can just make out Marlon Brando making somebody an offer they cannot refuse. His voice, however, and the voices of all other actors in *The Godfather*, are lost underneath a 'dubbed' translation into Russian, read by an actor from one of Moscow's leading film studios - illegally.

With the curtains drawn, and a frisson of excitement in the small audience crowded into the living room, this might be the showing of a blue movie somewhere in a jaded Western suburb. In fact, it is the advance wave of the video revolution, which has made a limited impact on the lives of Moscow's privileged elite.

Few ordinary Russians have seen a video cassette recorder. They are not available for hire, and although the Soviet Union is beginning to manufacture them, they are prohibitively expensive, up to 10,000 roubles, or four years' salary for the average worker.

Most of those who can afford videos prefer to buy imported Japanese models. Mostly on the black market. Customers include top Soviet officials (and their privileged offspring), and rouble-rich illegal entrepreneurs, many of them from the southern republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan, where illegal trading is practically a way of life.

The main problem is getting hold of cassettes. Western films, such as *The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now* and *A Clockwork Orange* are among the forbidden fruits, as the newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* has revealed.

There is also a steady demand for pornography. Most Western films with even a mildly erotic content appear pornographic by prudish Soviet standards, but many video owners want the "real thing", which nine times out of ten turns out to be *Emanuelle*.

Sovetskaya Rossiya recently disclosed that Moscow police had cracked a ring of illegal traders in Western cassettes. The underground video entrepreneurs had smuggled Western video equipment into Russia, and

used it to reproduce pirated copies for the flourishing black market. They had hired leading actors and translators to supply a Russian soundtrack, and had sold the results for up to 200 roubles a cassette (above the average monthly wage). The report said more than 50 people had been charged with "purveying pornography."

There is no doubt the authorities are worried by a limited video invasion. Last December General Vitaly Fedorchuk, then head of the KGB secret police and now Interior Minister, introduced a new law in the Supreme Soviet tightening up regulations on the importing of films and video, and instructed border guards and customs officials to be extra vigilant in their search for material "harmful to the moral health of the nation".

The new regulations were so zealously applied that they affected the work of Western television companies operating in Moscow. American television networks, including CBS and NBC, were recently told that even routine material recorded in the Soviet Union would have to be examined in full by customs officials at Moscow airport.

The United States protested that it was an imposition of censorship and a violation of the Helsinki agreements. The practice has now stopped and the Russians are turning a blind eye to their own regulations, much to the relief of American correspondents, since the careful screening of video tapes by Soviet officials takes several hours.

The main worry of the authorities is not only that the moral health of the nation will be undermined by *Emanuelle*, but also that Western ideas, political, social and cultural, will creep insidiously into Soviet life through films, documentaries and television shows recorded on video.

In the West it is called the information revolution, but in Russia information is something to be restricted and controlled, not disseminated at the push of a button.

Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, chairs the St George's Chapel, Windsor, 6.

New exhibitions
Modern Turkish Paintings from the Collection of Is Bankasi, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (from today until May 14).

Drawings and paintings by John Peck, Colin Jellicoe Gallery, 82 Portland Street, Manchester, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (from today until May 23).

A Distant Prospect: aerial photography in the past 125 years. Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17 Colingate, York, Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun and Mon (from today until May 7).

Sports Photographer of the Year exhibition, RPS National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath, Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun.

closed Sun (from today until May 31). Paintings by Alex McPherson, MacLaurin Art Gallery, Roselle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (from today until May 3).

Exhibitions in progress
Forging Ahead: Work by northern artist blacksmiths (until April 24); Life in the Country: 19th century English paintings of rural life (until June 5); and Burying Photographs Society exhibition (until April 17); all at Towneley Hall Art Gallery, Towneley Park, Burslem, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sun 12 to 5, closed Sat.

Anniversary Selection: paintings, oriental ceramics, porcelain, silver and furniture as an 80th anniversary tribute to the National Arts Collection Fund; Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30 (until April 24).

The Ritual of Gathering Grain: Photographs by Garry Miller, Usher Gallery, Lincoln Road, Lincoln, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until April 24).

Last chance to see
Artworks by Laurie Anderson, New 57 Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends tomorrow).

Work by Gordon Baldwin, Cleveland College of Art and Design, Green Lane, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Mon to Thurs 10 to 6, Fri 10 to 4, closed Sat and Sun (ends today).

Concert by John Webster, Peter Dingley Gallery, 16 Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 1.30 and 2.30 to 5.30, Thurs 9.30 to 1.30, closed Sun (ends tomorrow).

Music
Concert by City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Dudley Town Hall, W Midlands, 7.30.

Concert by County Youth Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Phoenix Arts Centre, Newcastle Street, Leicester, 7.30.

Concert by Scottish National Orchestra, Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Concert by Northern Sinfonia of England, Stacton-on-Tees, Parish Church, 7.45.

Welsh Night, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

St Endellion Easter Festival concert, Berthoz, The Church of Christ, Truro Cathedral, 7.30.

General
International Antique Dealers Fair, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 11 to 9 (daily until April 13).

Two films: *The Romance of Indian Railways*, 2; and *The Common Cuckoo*, 3.30, both at Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

Easter activities for children, Haggis Castle Museum, 100 St Andrews Drive, Pollokshields, Glasgow, from 10.15.

Bond winner
The winning number in the Premium Bond April draw for the £250,000 prize is 12 RT 795556; the winner lives in Buckinghamshire.

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The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	27.00	27.20
Austria Sch	76.50	77.50
Belgium Fr	19.40	19.60
Canada \$	13.50	13.70
Denmark Kr	8.50	8.70
Finland Mk	11.32	11.52
France Fr	3.79	3.99
Germany DM	133.00	134.00
Greece Dr	10.50	10.70
Hongkong \$	1.19	1.21
Ireland Pt	222.00	223.00
Italy Lira	379.00	380.00
Japan Yen	4.25	4.45
Netherlands Gld	11.25	11.45
Norway Kr	156.00	157.00
Portugal Esc	1.82	1.84
South Africa Rd	208.00	209.00
Spain Ptas	11.76	11.96
Sweden Kr	9.23	9.43
Switzerland Fr	1.56	1.58
Yugoslavia Dnr	126.00	127.00

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 327.3.

London: The FT Index closed up 8.3 at 672.2.

Food prices

The wide range of apples in the shops includes new season's Cape Golden Delicious at 35 to 45p a pound. Duns Seedlings 38-42p. Gravenstein 35-40p. Red Idared 35-40p. English Idared 35-40p. Con. 30-45p. Bananas are slightly dearer at 35-40p a pound because of hurricanes in Colombia and Honduras and rubbers are slightly dearer at 24-30p a pound due to colder weather. Strawberries from the Mediterranean are available from 55 to 90p a punnet - cheap for this time of year. Those from the United States are up to £1.80.

Cauliflower is still expensive at 55-60p each due to cold weather, but there are many alternatives: all varieties of cabbage range from 8 to 25p a pound, and parsnips, turnips, carrots and swedes, from 8 to 20p.

There is quite a choice of lamb this weekend, not just between English and New Zealand but between last season's and this year's. Sainsbury's home produced spring lamb at £1.94 a pound for leg and £1.29 for shoulder is excellent value for this time of year - some shops are selling the old lamb at 30p a pound more. Pork legs at Presto range from 78p to £1.08 a pound, and Sainsbury have a special price of £1.29 for chops, and 99p for leg and boneless shoulder. There are beef bargains at many stores: Sainsbury's have reduced some cuts by 10p a pound, and their back and top ribs by 20p.

Fish prices have eased a little after the peak Easter period. There should be some large cod fillets at around £1.15 a pound and haddock fillets at £1.20, fresh mackerel should be available for under 50p a pound.

Anniversaries
Births: John London, horticulturalist, Cambuslang, Lanarkshire, 1783; Harry Crabtree, physician, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, 1869; Mary Pickford, Toronto, Canada, 1893.

Deaths: El Greco (Doménikos Theotokopoulos), Toledo, 1614; Erik Axel Karlfeldt, poet (Nobel laureate), 1931; Stockholm 1931.

Roads

London and South-East: M11: Northbound carriageway reduced to one lane N of new M25 intersection at junction 6 near Thymley, Essex. A406: North Circular Road reduced to one lane eastbound across Angel Road bridge Edmonstone. A308: Roadworks at Sunbury Road at Hampton Road, Hampton, Middlesex.

Midlands and East Angles: M5: Southbound lane closures between junctions 3 (Quinton) and 6 (Warndon), Hereford and Worcester. M40: Road closed for sewer construction diversion. A1: Lane closures at Alconbury and Conington, Cambridgeshire.

Wales and West: M5: Lane closures between junctions 10 (Chepstow) and 12 (Gloucester). A49: Temporary signals at Abercromby, Gwynedd, N Wales. A55: Roadworks at Conwy Bridge, Gwynedd.

North: A506/A59/M57: Grand National meeting at Aintree racecourse, Liverpool; extra traffic on approach roads. A1: Lane closures at Boroughbridge, N Yorkshire.

A49: Lane closures at Alconbury and Conington, Cambridgeshire; diversions signposted.

South: A90: Lane closures on Forth road bridge; no vehicles over 6 foot 6 inches wide permitted; diversions for wide loads. M8: Lane closures between junctions 26 and 29 (Hillingdon and St James), A52: Great Western Road, Glasgow, closed to carbound traffic for sewer repairs.

Information supplied by the A.A.

The papers

Commenting on Treasury figures showing that only families with weekly incomes over £58.59 pay less tax than before the Tories came to power, the Daily Mirror says: "It is a story as old as politics: the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The tax promises were a con trick."

Ethiopia appeal

The Ethiopia Famine Appeal, organized by the Disaster Emergency Committee (The British Red Cross Society, Catholic Christian Aid, Oxfam and The Save the Children Fund) has now raised nearly £250,000. This will be used to provide food, water, medical supplies and shelter for famine victims in Ethiopia and surrounding regions.

Donations may be sent to: The Ethiopia Famine Appeal, PO Box 990, London EC3A 1HA.

Top films

Top box-office films in London:
1 (1) Gandhi
2 (2) Local Hero
3 (3) Table for Five
4 (4) The Verdict
5 (5) Heat and Dust
6 (6) The Missionary
7 (7) An Officer and a Gentleman
8 (8) The Boy in Blue
9 (9) The Muppet Show
10 (10) The Dark Crystal
11 (11) An Officer and a Gentleman
12 (12) The Boy in Blue
Compiled by Screen International

Weather forecast

A complex low pressure area covers the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, East Angles, Central S, E, NW, Central N England, Midlands: Sunny intervals, showers developing, some heavy and prolonged, wind SW, moderate, max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

SE England: Any rain soon clearing, sunny intervals, showers developing, later wind SW, moderate, max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Showers and sunny intervals, becoming generally cloudy during evening; wind W to SW, light or moderate; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Wales: Showers, some heavy and prolonged, sunny intervals, wind W, light or moderate, max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

London District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Fog patches soon clearing, sunny intervals, scattered showers developing; wind variable, light; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

NE England: Borders Edinburgh: Showers and sunny intervals, becoming generally cloudy during evening; wind W to SW, light or moderate; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, a few showers developing; wind variable, light; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 46F).

Outlook for the weekend: sunny intervals and showers, heavy and wintry in places, but perhaps a longer period of rain over S Britain rather cold with overnight frost and fog in places.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind SW, moderate, becoming fresh; sea moderate, English Channel (E), St George's Channel: Wind SW, veering W fresh; sea moderate. Irish Sea: Wind variable, light, becoming NW, moderate or fresh; sea slight to moderate.

Lighting-up time

London 8.15 pm to 8.50 am
Bristol 8.34 pm to 8.59 am
Manchester 8.30 pm to 8.55 am
Penzance 8.34 pm to 8.59 am

Yesterday

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
	°C	°F		°C	°F	
Belfast	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Birmingham	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Bristol	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Cardiff	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Edinburgh	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Glasgow	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy

Highest and lowest

Highest temp: North, Poole, Dorset, 18.5C (65.3F); Lowest temp: North, Poole, Dorset, 12.2C (54.0F); Highest wind: North, Poole, Dorset, 11.2C (52.2F).

NOON TODAY

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
	°C	°F		°C	°F	
London	11.2	52.2	Cloudy	11.2	52.2	Cloudy
Birmingham	11.2	52.2	Cloudy	11.2	52.2	Cloudy
Bristol	11.2	52.2	Cloudy	11.2	52.2	Cloudy
Cardiff	11.2	52.2	Cloudy	11.2	52.2	Cloudy
Edinburgh	11.2	52.2	Cloudy	11.2	52.2	Cloudy
Glasgow	11.2	52.2	Cloudy	11.2	52.2	Cloudy

High tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind
London	11.2	52.2	11.2	52.2
Birmingham	11.2	52.2	11.2	52.2
Bristol	11.2	52.2	11.2	52.2
Cardiff	11.2	52.2	11.2	52.2
Edinburgh	11.2	52.2	11.2	52.2
Glasgow	11.2	52.2	11.2	52.2

Around Britain

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
	°C	°F		°C	°F	
Southwest	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
London	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
North	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
West	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
East	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
South	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy

Abroad

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
	°C	°F		°C	°F	
Algeria	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Amsterdam	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Antwerp	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Athens	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Bombay	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Calcutta	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Cairo	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Cardiff	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Chicago	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Copenhagen	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Dublin	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Edinburgh	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Glasgow	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Hamburg	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Harbin	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Hong Kong	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Kobe	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
London	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Lyons	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy
Manila	10.4	50.7	Cloudy	10.4	50.7	Cloudy